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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	297
Leading Articles:	
Chinese Provincial Administrators	298
The Trouble in Natal	298
The Reception of the Merchants Shipping Bill	299
A Propos San Francisco	299
Religious Mammals	300
Russia's Far Eastern Interests	300
St. George and Egregious England	300
The Anglo-Saxon Brain	31
Hongkong Jottings	301
Beggars and Beachcombers	302
Legislative Council Vacancy	302
Supreme Court	302
Police Court	306
Coolie's Big Jump	307
Canton	307
Correspondence	308
Bellios Medal for Gallantry	308
Abolition of Torture in China	309
San Francisco Catastrophe	309
Shanghai's "Last Chief Justice."	310
In Memoriam: Robert William Little	310
The Nanchang Affair	310
Foreign Trade of Japan	310
Companies:	
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.	311
China Traders Insurance Co.	311
The Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ltd.	311
Philippine Company, Ltd.	312
The Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Ltd.	312
Interesting to Volunteers	312
"Designing Corpse Factories"	312
Japan after the War	312
The Late Mr. Little	312
Reviews	313
Miscellaneous	313
Commercial	314
Shipping	316

BIRTHS.

On April 17th, at Port Edward, Weihaiwei, the wife of ROBERT WALTER, Colonial Civil Service, of a daughter.

On April 21st, at "Villa Branca," the wife of A. M. L. SOARES, of a son.

On April 29th, at Derrington, Peak Road, the wife of J. G. SCHROTER, of a son.

DEATHS.

On April 11th, at Chefoo, MARGUERITE ANTOINETTE, wife of Major A. A. S. BARNES, Transvaal Government Emigration Agent, aged 28 years.

On April 20th, 1906, at Whampoa, DOROTHY MARYWHITE, the beloved daughter of V. J. and LOUISA E. McLOUGHLIN, aged 3 years and 6 months.

On April 20th, at Shanghai, ROBERT WILLIAM LITTLE, B.A., Oxon, F.J.L., in his 67th year.

On April 20th, at Chinkiang, MARY C. ROBINSON.

IN MEMORIAM.

On the 27th April, 1905, at Amoy, LIONEL BRABANT LANGFORD WHEELER, eldest son of Col. J. L. WHEELER, A.O.D.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The German Mail of March 27th arrived, per the ss. *Prinz Heinrich*, on Wednesday, the 25th inst.; and the French Mail of 30th March arrived, per the ss. *Caledonias*, on Monday, the 9th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Foochow felt another earthquake shock on April 14th.

It is stated that the German Minister will receive the Order of the Double Dragon in recognition of the German troops being withdrawn.

The first trip of the train de luxe over the entire distance from Peking to Hankow was covered in thirty-six hours and exactly up to the time-table schedule.

The Chairman of the Municipal Council, Mr. Cecil Holliday, at noon on April 24 inserted the first spade in connection with the laying down of an electric tramway system in the Shanghai settlement.

According to a cable received at Manila the Yaami Hotel at Kyoto, Japan, was totally destroyed by a conflagration at midnight of April 17. No lives were lost, although the hotel was full of foreign guests.

The *Jih Jih* learns from a reliable source that the Russo-Chinese conference has fallen through in consequence of the Russian refusal to modify their demands, and the impossibility on China's part of granting any one of them.

The following telegram has been received by the Colonial Secretary from the Acting Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at Swatow:—"Mine reported in Latitude 34 degrees 30m. N. and Longitude 122 degrees 40m. E."

It is stated in Peking that the Emperor has such a predilection for Mr. Uchida as Japanese Minister that he has addressed an autograph letter to the Emperor of Japan requesting that His Excellency may be allowed to remain at Peking for another term.

In the week ending April 21st, there were 44 cases of plague at Hongkong, of which 37 ended fatally. In the next 48 hours there were 15 more, of which 13 ended fatally. The total to date is 246 cases. The smallpox return for that week was nine cases, eight fatal.

Shanghai native city officials are still anxious to copy Tientsin, and remove the surrounding wall. At Tientsin, we read, the general healthfulness of the outskirts of the city has been increased by the fine open space represented by the new wide roadway (on the site of the wall).

According to the *Nanfungao*, Baron Mumm has protested to the Waiwpu against the action of the Chinese authorities in forbidding Chinese landowners from selling land to foreigners outside the boundaries of the Settlement at Shanghai. This is one of the things we should think China justified in doing.

A few days prior to April 18th a raid was made upon American constabulary at Maloloa, Phili pines. About sixty ladrones, armed with native swords, entered the quarters and secured some guns and six hundred rounds of ammunition. Three guards were killed, and nearly all the rest had wounds to show.

France has abolished the harassing identification regulations in regard to Chinese immigrants arriving at Saigon. The withdrawal of the regulations takes effect from May 15. The *Avenir du Tonkin* says that this step was hastened by reports that the Chinese coolie class intended to boycott the colony unless the regulations were done away with.

The Honan Governor has petitioned for a year's extension of the privilege of selling official ranks. Doubtless he has planned a big turnover for 1906.

Chang Chih-tung advises in future that in any Christian cases the missionary interested be present at the hearing, and if there is anything contrary to justice in the decision he can then lay the matter before his own Consul, but not interfere with the magistrate directly. We cannot see why they should meddle at all; they would have no *locus standi* in a British Court.

It is reported that the Russian Minister was greatly angered at receiving an unsatisfactory reply from H.E. Tang Shao-ji on the conditions of the Manchuria negotiations; and that he has declared that China's hesitation is evident proof of insincerity. Russia, he says, has made her own decision and he will at once order Russian women and children residing in Manchuria to leave for home.

It is an open secret, says the Hankow paper, that His Excellency the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, has purchased through a local Japanese firm a considerable number of used-up old and obsolete guns used in the late Russo-Japanese war, in order to make a show at the approaching Chinese military manoeuvres. A considerable quantity of Japanese horses have also been contracted for, for the same purpose. These are probably in the same condition as the guns.

Reports to the *Pioneer* from Shigatse show that the prestige of the Tashi Lama has enormously increased since his visit to India. His reception on returning home was a most enthusiastic one, and for the past month worshippers have been crowding to Shigatse to pay renewed homage. The feelings of the Tibetans towards the British have become most cordial, the news of the honours paid to the Tashi in India having spread throughout the country.

It is reported from Chengtu, that the Government troops operating against the Tibetan insurgents in Shensi, in the Patang region, fell into an ambush on the 13th April, and had to leave over two hundred in killed and wounded on the field. This is the second reverse suffered by the Government troops operating in that region this year, and H.E. Viceroy Hai Liang is sending strong reinforcements to restore order and suppress the insurrection.

A Peking dispatch in the *Nanfungao* says that Sir Ernest Satow has again addressed the Waiwpu with reference to the concession for building the railway from Soochow to Hangchow and Ningpo, stating that unless some definite reply from the Chinese Government is received during April the British and Chinese Corporation will order their engineers to proceed with the survey of the line in order to get ready to commence the work of construction.

It is said that the rumours of a revolutionary movement in Peking originated through the illusory yarns of a Chinaman in the United States. This Chinaman informed his American friends that a great anti-foreign movement was expected in China. This led to a scare, and the telegraphing of the news to the Foreign Ministry at Peking. From the Foreign Ministry the news quickly spread to the Palace, whereupon strict instructions were issued to the metropolitan police to carefully patrol and guard the city.

CHINESE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATORS.

(*Daily Press*, 21st April.)

It is a practice of respectable antiquity in China that when an official is desirous of making more than ordinary profit out of some abuse he begins by virtuous denunciations of it and all kindred crimes. The world, so far as it has any cognisance of the righteous reformer, looks on in admiration of this second DANIEL come to judgment; and the Empire at large plumes itself on its possession of the true art of government, and fans itself with iterative energy over the thought that it has an example to show to the unutterable barbarian who would essay to teach it the A.B.C. of political economy. China, especially that faction of it which may, in imitation of a phrase much used elsewhere for designating the half-fledged youth of a people just waking up to the fact that they have been sleeping for centuries, be called Young China, has lately been bewailing the very salutary (so far as she herself is concerned) regulation withdrawing the subjects of the European Powers from the very undeveloped system of administration to which China, as compared with the West, has as yet attained. Were it not that we have been bearing much more than usual of this supposed unfair disability, assumed by the "Young China" enthusiasts to have been forced on China against her will, we should have been well disposed to permit affairs to come of themselves to rest by natural process. As a fact extra-territoriality in the various States of Asia is as old as the first visits of Europeans, and was introduced by the States themselves to get rid of the difficulties growing out of differences of custom and practice. It was indeed as old as the Parthian empire, where we find Seleucia with its own Municipal Council governing its inhabitants under the territorial rule of Parthia according to Macedonian law. A perfectly similar account comes to us from Canton in the ninth century: RENAUDOT, in his translation of the *voyages* of *Two Mohammedan Travellers*, relates:—"SOLIMAN, the Merchant, says, that at Canfu (Canton), which is the principle Scale for Merchants, there is a Mohammedan appointed Judge over those of his Religion by the authority of the Emperor of China, and that he is Judge of all the Mohammedans who resort to these Parts. Upon Festival days he performs the Public Service with the Mohammedans and pronounces the Sermon or Kotbat, which he concludes in the usual form with prayers for the Sultan of the Moslems (or Muslemen). The Merchants of Irak who trade hither are no way dissatisfied with his Conduct, or his Administration in the Post he is invested with: because his Actions and the Judgments he gives are just and equitable, and conformable to the Koran (or Alcoran), and according to the Mohammedan Jurisprudence." It was the conviction of the complete incompatibility of the two systems of East and West, rather than any implied superiority of one or other, which in these instances prompted the practice. Some recent occurrences in China suggest how wide apart are still the ideas of East and West, and how little fitted is the mental attitude of the Government of China to comprehend the distance between the two. "Ye have heard," said two thousand years ago a wise man in the West, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you resist not evil, and if any one smite you on the one cheek, offer him the other also." Curiously

the *lex talionis* is still the law of China, and, since the very first day of Western intercourse, has been the fruitful parent of misunderstandings and ill-will. Carried to even greater lengths than ever it had amongst the Western nations it has cropped up in the recent fray in Kiangsi. Investigation has proved that the conduct of the Lazarist priest at Nanchang had no connection with the death of the Magistrate KIANG, who went to the mission house with the intention of committing suicide, having, as he conceived, "lost face" with both parties. The contention that such an occurrence had anything to do with homicide indicates how far apart in their fundamentals are Eastern and Western conceptions of wrong. In the one case it is a matter of punishment when proved to result from evil intention; in the other it is merely a matter for vengeance irrespective of moral delinquency. The subsequent proceedings showed how fundamentally distinct from any conception of justice in the abstract were the ideas of the Chinese authorities. A swarmery was instituted, the worst feelings of a Chinese mob were let loose, and the assumed culprit was under the pretence of the administration of the law, and under the eyes of the administrators, foully murdered. It is the very same class who, themselves unable to distinguish retaliation from punishment, are now occupying themselves with a cry for the abolition of extra-territoriality as incompatible with the self-respect of China.

Another equally instructive instance of the incompatibility of Eastern and Western ideas of self-respect was afforded in the recent riot at Shanghai, where the presumed guardians of order did not shrink from invoking the same elements of disorder to avenge a fancied slight on their dignity; with the consequence that a similar outrage was prevented only by the superior preparedness and organisation of the municipal authorities. Here, however, the attempt at vindication of the dignity of the Chinese official hierarchy has not been without its comic element. China was advancing so rapidly in the way of reformation of her criminal procedure that it was given out officially that corporal punishment was abolished; and the Mixed Court was the *corpus vile* in which the experiment was to be first tried. Under the *egis* of one of the most potent of the expounders of the school of Young China, the Taotai YUEN, all preparations were made for the introduction of the reform, and naturally foreign eyes looked on with curiosity for the result. There was, it is true, for a spell no visible corporal punishment, but that, as it afterwards turned out, was only in the case of prisoners presented by the police. Notwithstanding that apparently Imperial orders had abolished corporal punishment, flogging went on everywhere as usual, except in the Mixed Court. And here came in the little joke: it was only in the case of prisoners presented by the police, as it soon turned out, that flogging was forbidden: the MAGISTRATE's own prisoners were flogged as usual. The police prisoners were of course brought up for crimes and offences against the good order of the Settlements, and that being in the eyes of the MAGISTRATE a thing of no moment, they were allowed to go unpunished; while the others whose crime was having offended himself were made to undergo the forbidden punishment. Such is Young China's conception of the administration of the law.

At the beginning of our article we spoke of an ordinary practice which super-virtuous officials sometimes indulged in with the double object of obtaining cheap

applause, while at the same time filling their own pockets. A taotai-ship is an expensive office, and the course of business in the northern port has occasionally been interfered with while a newly-appointed magistrate was engaged raising the necessary funds to satisfy the demands of the Court; in such a case the banks are occasionally for days drained of their current funds, and of course in the long run have to be satisfied at somebody's expense. Lately we have from the officials been hearing of the necessity of extinguishing salt smuggling, and judging from the orders that have been given, "and the amount of official virtue displayed, it might have been anticipated that salt smuggling would e'er this have become a thing of the long ago. Occasionally the veil is lifted, and we discover that the forbidden crime flourishes exceedingly, even under the eyes of the most virtuous of officials. Indeed there is a curious, and by unkind reports more than accidental, coincidence between moments of exalted virtue and the prevalence of more than ordinary crime; and Young China could perhaps explain a good deal of the mystery. Of course a magistrate must live: but Peking has an unpleasant habit of pretending to think that the office exists for the exercise of virtue for the mere love of it. But a magistrate has to keep up what he calls his dignity, and this results in his having about his yamen a number of highly useless hangers-on: they must of course live also, at least so they think, whatever may be the magistrate's opinion on the subject: which it is needless to discuss. Accordingly the magistrate's virtuous words are interpreted in their own sense by the understrappers as indicating that now has come the time to shut their eyes. Much profit is the result, but it would offend all the institutions of the Empire and lead to endless abuses that the underlings of a yamen should grow rich out of their illegal gains. Fortunately for the good name of the Empire the virtue of the magistrate is generally equal to the new emergency, and the illicit gains disappear under gentle pressure: where they go to it were imprudent to enquire, but certain banks find themselves in possession of unexpected funds which they are prepared to let out at high interest and so the Empire goes on, squeezing and being squeezed. Such is the way according to unkind rumour that the salt smuggler in Kiangsu earns a profitable livelihood, and so too the dignity of the administration is preserved in unfading effulgence. Young China has very weighty reason for the desire to preserve it unshaded.

THE TROUBLE IN NATAL.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd April.)

Those who have an intimate knowledge of South Africa, based more particularly on experience with the native races, have always predicted that the struggle with the Boers would be followed by a big uprising of the coloured people. This prognostication is now being fulfilled. Recent telegrams from Natal show that the present insurrection with which the Government of that Colony has to deal is not the action of a few irresponsibles, not one of those temporary expressions of dissatisfaction, to be followed by the usual punitive expedition, but a carefully considered plan of campaign which only required some act of apparent aggression on the part of the dominant race to develop into open hostility. This is not an alarmist view of the situation. It is based on fact. Thousands of natives have

risen in revolt, and that two of the more important tribal rulers have refused to assist in bringing the recalcitrants under subjection is significant. It shows that the various tribes are in sympathy with those who have raised the standard of rebellion, and therein lies the danger. Dread of the power of Britain may be overcome by a few initial and trifling successes, and sympathy may be exchanged for active and vigorous co-operation, resulting in a movement which will call for greater repressive measures than are at present anticipated. In our exclusive telegram of Saturday it was announced that it was thought probable that at least seven thousand troops would be required to quell the outbreak, but those who have a knowledge of the actual state of affairs declare that a much greater force will be required to subdue the natives.

When we come to study the situation we find that the uprising is not merely the outcome of aversion to the hut tax, always regarded as a vexatious impost. Its causes are more deeply seated. Some are political, some are economic, and some are what we might call military. Politically, certain events have occurred, notably the Boer War, as a result of which the ruling race has lost prestige. Economically, the introduction of Chinese coolies affected the labour market so that the Kaffirs were not in a position to pay their usual contributions to their chiefs, and not unnaturally the falling off was not to the liking of those who suffered by it. Added to that, is the animus shown by the blacks against the yellow men. From the military point of view there was the arming of natives during the Boer War. Undoubtedly the aborigines rendered useful service as scouts, but the consequences of the step dictated by military policy during the period of warfare referred to has been more far reaching than was anticipated at the time. Of course they ought to have been disarmed at the cessation of hostilities, but though asked to give up their arms they refused, and the impolicy of not adopting strong measures then is to some extent responsible for the present outbreak. These people, dissatisfied with the hut tax, aggrieved because they have been supplanted in the labour market, and inflamed with an overweening conceit of their own power based on the possession of rifles and a knowledge of their skill with such modern weapons, have at last apparently decided them that the time has come to drive the white men out of Natal; and the affair which was inaugurated by an insolent display of contempt for magisterial authority is likely to develop into quite a respectable war. Of course the natives will find out their mistakes by and by. They will learn that the hut tax or poll tax is a harmless and by no means unjust equivalent of rent for ground occupied or used. They will learn that the labour market is regulated by the law of supply and demand and not by their predilections. They will learn, too, that their vaunted bravery and determination avail them little against the "red necks," who will come again and again with guns that bite. And the lessons will be wholesome, but they will cost something to inculcate. Yet the Natal outbreak is not without its agreeable aspect. The fact that the Boers are making common cause with the British will be re-assuring to those who have the welfare of South Africa at heart, and if it achieved nothing else this demonstration of unity among the two peoples will help to restore that prestige which they lost during the late war, and prove to the natives how groundless were their hopes of driving the white men out of Natal and how utterly futile all their efforts in that direction.

are bound to be, even with the aid of modern weapons. It may take some time to convince them of their mistake, especially as they are not lacking in courage, but with a strong body of local volunteers aided perhaps by Imperial troops, for which purpose Indian soldiers could usefully be employed, peace should be restored in Natal and the Colonies in South Africa may, after economic differences are settled, resume once more the path of progress.

THE RECEPTION OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL.

(*Daily Press*, 24th April.)

It is almost impossible to gather from the published comments any fair conception of the new Bill to Amend the Merchant Shipping Acts, now before Parliament. We have found space in this issue to reproduce the introductory speech of Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, as giving the most authoritative explanation of its scope and purport; but the comments of our British contemporaries are too varied by party predilections to be useful to us here, where party views lose their force, and where we try to take a broader, more imperial view of such things. The *Standard*, for instance, denounces the humanitarian plea for the Bill as humbug, and says the proposed regulations constitute a very just and very necessary measure of protection for British shipping, which has long suffered under monstrously unfair competition; but that they are woefully incomplete. The *Telegraph* approves, but makes the apparently unnecessary suggestion that they are anti-Cobdenite. The *Express* seizes this point with malicious glee, and irrelevantly remarks, "The time will come when he and others who are pledged to the anti-national system which is ironically styled 'Free Trade' will be forced to accept the logic of their own convictions by embracing Tariff Reform." It seems a pity that such an important measure cannot be taken solely on its merits, as an honest attempt to cope with problems long familiar in the shipping world. Certainly we cannot altogether approve of the parliamentary method of the PRESIDENT of the Board of Trade. His flippant way of referring to Lascars as hereditary sailors who perhaps manned NOAH's ark may be in keeping with the modern idea of the best procedure in the House; but it must jar on old-fashioned ears, the owners whereof have learned to expect a more business-like tone and seriousness from Ministers. The *Globe*, which also draws the same anti-Free-Trade moral as the *Express*, but highly commends the measure, perpetrates an amusing "bowler" when it says, "The unscrupulous foreign shipowner, who now buys unseaworthy ships at dirt cheap prices, and employs these derelicts to carry on trade with England, will find himself shut out from the villainous, but very lucrative, business, while his English rival, relieved from unfair competition, should be", &c., &c. This appears at first glance a sweeping confirmation of the suggestion by Mr. MORLEY ROBERTS and other seafaring writers that there is a common type of black sheep amongst British shipping firms; but we need hardly mention that the context shows that the *Globe* did not mean it. Not one of the papers whose comments we have read appears able to look at the question from more than one side; and no one appears to have considered it important to decide for whose ultimate benefit such legislation is intended. Otherwise, the *Standard* might not have advanced the criticism that

"we are not a very logical people, or we should see the lengths of absurdity to which a proposal to impose British municipal law on ships frequenting British shores leads. If it is just and wise to be so careful of the lives of foreign seamen that we intend to insist on foreign vessels adopting the Plimsoll mark, carrying life-belts and boats to the number required by our Merchant Shipping Acts, and loading grain as we think it ought to be loaded, then it is also just and wise to insist that the foreign sailor shall be paid the same wages as are paid in British ships, and shall enjoy the same minimum scale of diet which the Bill proposes to make compulsory on British owners."

Labour members look at it from the one point of view that "blacklegs", or cheap foreign sailors, are to be excluded from the mercantile marine as far as possible. Seamen themselves, through their representatives, believe the first essentials to be improving their own condition, as to comfort, dietary, and wages. The owners again, knowing that a tramp steamer can be worked just as well with a "Dago" crew as with a British, argue that if the nation wants British ships to be manned only by British subjects, the country ought to compensate them for the additional cost. If all these different points of view weigh equally with the framer of a Bill, that Bill seems bound to be of an undecided kind, and unlikely to give satisfaction to any section. Yet it is equally difficult for an impartial critic, desiring a fair conclusion, to come at one likely to be useful. The law of supply and demand cannot be ignored; and even if things were so arranged that each nation could reserve to its own subjects its mercantile marine, establishing at the same time minimum and maximum rates of pay, standard accommodation and food, the problem would not be solved, but merely altered. It is fairly certain that the British mercantile marine under present conditions offers a very unattractive career to the rank and file; and if, as was argued, the improvement of these conditions is not "a matter of dividends", it is a matter of freights. If the shipowner has to pay, the shipper has to recoup him. It is the shipper who will probably pay for the pleasure of seeing British shipping "protected" and foreign competition discouraged; and we doubt if the British sailor man will be any better off. An important point is to remember that for him, the conditions of service have always been as bad as they could be, and cheap competition has not made them worse than they used to be. They are improved, really; and if they now seem worse to the man before the mast, it is because he himself has evolved higher standards of comfort, and gone elsewhere to seek it. It looks as if reformers had educated the masses, only to be shocked at their refusal to be content with the conditions to which it formerly pleased "Providence" to call them.

A PROPOS SAN FRANCISCO.

(*Daily Press*, 25th April.)

There is good reason for the popular belief that earthquakes are closely connected with volcanic agency. Both probably have a like cause, connected with the subterranean fires; and a violent eruption of any well known volcano is, it has been noticed, usually accompanied, either immediately before or after, by seismic disturbances. The area or zone allotted to such phenomena by geologists is measured on a truly generous scale. San Francisco has suffered in sympathy, so to speak, with the villages round Vesuvius. A popular idea is abroad that since the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique, four years ago, earthquakes and eruptions have been commoner than they

used to be. Professors of vulcanology will think this nonsense, and so it is; but it is at least natural. An event which turned in ten short minutes a large city and ten miles of environs into a silent cemetery is humanly expected to have consequences in proportion. Since that cataclysmic holocaust, more or less serious disturbances have occurred all over the world, many of them almost as important as the more familiar and recent occurrences in Formosa, Madagascar, Italy, and America. Greece, Far Eastern Russia, Cornwall, Syracuse, India (notably the destructive Bandar Abbas affair), Dakota, Portugal, New York, Persia, Philippines, Algeria, Saxony, Jerusalem, Derbyshire, Hungary, Wales—all those places are named in the list of notable earthquakes occurring since Mt. Pelee erupted; and in this connection it is of interest to recall that San Francisco had a warning in 1902, when severe shocks were reported at Los Alamos, California, in July and August of that year. Much of San Francisco is built on reclaimed land, like our local Praya, which may account for the wholesale way in which the first buildings collapsed. But it seems to be clear that the shock, though comparatively short, was a most severe one; and its effects will doubtless make architects in that part of the world think twice about the "skyscraper" question. A curious point has been raised in connection with the fire insurance of the ruined property. It appears that many American policies debar fire losses caused by earthquake, and it may be argued that all the recent fires had such an origin.

RELIGIOUS MAMMALS.

(*Daily Press*, 25th April)

Judging from a *Times* review of "The Tree of Life", a new study of the origins of religion, the author of "The Mystic Rose" has been leaving sane anthropological research for less safe metaphysics. It is a little difficult to disentangle what is Mr. ERNEST CRAWLEY's from what is the *Times* reviewer's; but on the whole we suspect that the sense is the thinker's and the nonsense the critic's. The reviewer says it is undoubtedly true that the religious impulse is individualistic, not altruistic, but he strangely cannot accept Mr. CRAWLEY's hypothesis that basic religion is a vital instinct akin to the instinct of self-preservation. Why, if so, he demands, should it not be implanted in the other mammals? Now the fanciful belief that it may be we do not champion, but we may fatefully quarrel with the critic's assumption that it is not. No one as yet has proved or reasonably established the negative; and on the other hand, there is the singing of certain birds to consider, that singing which is not prompted by the amative instinct of spring, and its consequent pugnacity. The autumn evensong of the thrush might well be attributed to an impulse to worship. On the same point, the critic makes what we must regard as another pure assumption, when he says, "if the vital desire were the only spring of religious impulse, we should expect to find the love of life strongest among savage races, whereas in fact it is among these races that the fear of death and the will to live is weakest". (He probably means the "fear of death" is strongest.) As to the "will to live", we should imagine its best index, suicide, practically confined to civilisation, would tell otherwise. What Mr. CRAWLEY meant by the instinct of vitality inspiring the religious impulse was doubtless, not that

it was "the only spring of religious impulse", but simply this, that human fear, born of human ignorance, was the mother Eve of all supernaturalism.

RUSSIA'S FAR EASTERN INTERESTS.

(*Daily Press*, 26th April.)

The recent report that, in connection with the mysterious Russo-Chinese negotiations, the Russian Minister at Peking had presented to China what was practically an ultimatum, is a report difficult to take seriously. If M. POKOTILOW did threaten to send the women and children out of Siberia, he might be perpetrating a ridiculous "bluff"; but the probability is that he did nothing so foolish. Of all that has been said and written of the recent denouement in the Far East, there has been nothing to really enlighten our curiosity as to how the Russians regard the altered state of affairs. Their own internal troubles, following so soon after the débâcle, helped to divert attention, of course; and in any case it is the way of the world to watch the bearing of the conqueror with most concern, for a time at least. But many people, reflecting upon the tremendous alteration in the Russian national status, must have wondered just how and what the Russians have been feeling. A leading article in the *Novoe Vremya*, as translated by Mr. FRANCIS McCULLAGH, late of Tokyo, helps to give a little insight into this field of speculation. The Russian journal notes that "our possessions on the Pacific coast" are connected with Russia in three ways. There is the line of railway (part of which runs through Chinese territory), the river Amur (impassable six months a year), and the ocean route. The *Novoe Vremya* pessimistically regards the latter as the weakest of the three. Recent events had proved conclusively that in war time it is completely closed, "and therefore it will be necessary to leave communication by sea completely out of the question, and not to think of sending transports or men-of-war". As regards naval power, then, we may take it that the feeling is at present one of despair. Russian history, however, is against any theory that that despair will continue forever; they have had either splendid vitality and courage in the past, or else very short memory. Similar pessimism distinguishes the consideration of railway communication. Our contemporary says that they no longer possess Manchuria, and gone is "the aureole of strength and invincibility" which encircled their brows. It would take an entire year to raise an army strong enough to regain and hold the railway, and offensive movements even then would be out of the question. "The Japanese could now march on Harbin and we could do nothing." Also, they do not believe that China could be induced to remain neutral another time, or when, to quote their own characteristic expression, "the next Russo-Japanese war takes place". There is the best reason, they think, to expect China's active participation in the struggle. If the Chinese have not been over-reached in recent negotiations, and we do not think they have, we anticipate that they will be confirmed in the faith of LI HUNG-CHANG, that it is better to quietly watch while thieves fall out, so that honest folk may regain their own in a frugal way. However, the final conclusion of our Russian contemporary is that there is no means of communication with their Far Eastern possessions that is not utterly precarious, and as it seems out of the question

to establish a permanent army of occupation, they urge that colonists be encouraged in every possible way to settle there. Present circumstances are unlikely to continue, because

"the riches of our Pacific coasts are too great and too ill-guarded for foreigners to keep their hands off them, all the more as the article in the Portsmouth Treaty, conceding to the Japanese the right to fish along our coasts opens a wide field to all kinds of plundering. Accordingly, we ought to take measures for the real occupation of these rich regions ourselves, by means of colonists who will people the country and exploit its resources. The history of every colonising enterprise clearly shows that the protection of an unpeopled and uncultivated country is impossible if there are no colonists; while it is possible if there are colonists, even colonists who exploit the country in a wasteful manner."

Failing this, they say, they should honourably liquidate all their Far Eastern "dominions" now, and "so spare ourselves the humiliation of having them taken from us by the yellow-skinned Asiatics or the white-skinned Americans". The journal hopes that Russia will not be dilatory "as usual", but submit the question at once to the Imperial Duma.

ST. GEORGE AND EGREGIOUS ENGLAND.

(*Daily Press*, 27th April.)

The compilers of the annual report and year book for 1905 of the Royal Society of St. George appear to be serious-minded persons, determined to regard their association as a mission rather than a hobby. They have only just discovered, however, that there are kindred societies at Shanghai and Yokohama, and have never so much as heard of the St. George's Society at Hongkong. The local SECRETARY ought really to encourage them with news of the moral support of Hongkong. The year-book snubs rather too severely our contemporary the *Japan Chronicle*, which had indulged in a dream of cosmopolitanism, and had disavowed all sympathy with "parochial patriotism". Remarking incidentally that China is the only country that does not teach patriotism, the report says it is not wrong to thank God we are Englishmen. On the contrary, we should be "still more thankful that we are not cold-blooded cosmopolitans who love no country, but only themselves". The Rev. Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBS plea for a wider patriotism may not be inconsistent with the idea of the Society; but it does not seem to harmonise with the comments that accompany it on "The New Ministry". It is a queer sort of patriotism which finds out what few of us would have noticed, that the new British Government practically excludes Englishmen (and Irishmen)! We read the amazing statement that with the single exception of Sir EDWARD GRAY the English members may be classed as "Anglophile Scots". That "the representatives of England are relegated to minor posts" is dismaying; and we do hope that Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN will, as requested, bear in mind that it is not as the Prime Minister of Scotland that he has been returned to power. "As Englishmen and Imperialists (?) we cannot regard the exclusion from office of our countrymen with equanimity. The salaries" (almost a Scottish touch, this) "attached to the respective offices are comparatively unimportant"; but Englishmen should have had "a just share of the loups and fishes". It would really appear, adds this distressing report, as if "no English need apply" were already displayed over the portals of every Government Department.

ment. But our impulse toward gentle badinage must yield to stronger feeling when we read such mischievous nonsense as the following:—

"Next year (1907) is the Bi-centenary of the Legislative Union of England and Scotland, and there should be great rejoicings in North Britain. It is desirable that this union should be cemented and strengthened; is it wise, then, on the eve of that auspicious event to create racial antagonism by wounding the national sentiment of the greater country? We cannot preserve our purely English characteristics, traditions, and customs when strangers are thrust upon us who share our sentiments imperfectly and have different local institutions. A Scotch Premiership would seem ever to be associated with some National calamity. It is interesting here to refer to Lord Macaulay's remarks with reference to Lord Bute, the Minister and favourite of George III.:—' The only effect of Bute's domestic administration was to make faction wilder and corruption fouler than ever. . . . the Public Offices, the Army, and the Navy were filled with high-cheeked Drummonds and Erskines, Macdonalds, and Macgillivraes, who could not talk a Christian tongue, and some of whom had but lately begun to wear Christian breeches. . . . It was remarked that Adam, a Scotchman, was the Court Architect, and that Ramsey, a Scotchman, was the Court Painter, and was preferred to Reynolds. Mallet, a Scotchman, of no high literary fame, and of infamous character, partook largely of the liberality of the Government. John Home, a Scotchman, was rewarded for the tragedy of Douglas both with a pension and with a sinecure place. But, when the author of 'The Bard' and of 'The Elegy in a Country Churchyard' ventured to ask for a Professorship . . . he was refused.' And this year (1905) is the centenary of the death of the patriot Pitt, the famous son of that great Englishman, the Earl of Chatham, whom that titled sycophant displaced! What a contrast! It was under the Administration of Lord Aberdeen that we engaged in the disastrous Crimean War. Under Mr. Gladstone's Premiership (who always called himself a Scotchman) occurred the lamentable death of General Gordon, Home Rule, and the surrender at Majuba, entailing the recent war, with its enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure, under the Premiership of Mr. Balfour, who never wearies, on every conceivable occasion, in and out of season, in declaring himself a Scotchman and in proclaiming the virtues of his countrymen. In contradistinction it is worth recording the opinion of a notable French writer:—'The English are the very quintessence of the Imperial brain; they are a superfine people, and it is characteristic of the superfine element, i.e., the English, that it never makes mistakes'."

What pestiferous patriotism all that; what egregious effrontery to retail that concluding Gallic compliment! We have no doubt whatever (and it seems advisable to state that these comments are made by a member of the superfine race that never makes mistakes) that the writer of the lines quoted has utterly failed to gather the dimmest conception of real patriotism. He elsewhere cites the case of the Japanese: we can only say that the patriotism that has put Japan where it is had nothing to do with emphasising the distinction between northerners and southerners. He must be a very JUDAS of his cult; and we can but hope that the local society will refuse to associate itself with such idle propaganda. The very genuine glory of England was not got, nor has it ever been maintained, by such claptrap.

The Saghalien Administrative Office has decided to establish a Japanese colony this year in the newly-acquired territory, and to settle about 100 farmers and their families from the North-east Provinces and the Hokkaido. Any Japanese families already resident in Saghalien desirous of settling in the southern district will be allowed to do so. The cultivation of wheat, barley, rye, and hay is anticipated in the new territory.

THE ANGLO-SAXON BRAIN.

(*Daily Press*, 28th April.)

A statement by Dr. CLOUSTON, at the annual meeting of the Royal Asylum, that four and a half millions sterling are spent annually in the United Kingdom on the treatment of the insane, has led "an eminent authority", unfortunately unnamed, to make some sensational statements for publication in the press. This is "an age of brains and lunacy", it was stated. In England and Wales one person in every 285 is certified to be a lunatic. The whole Anglo-Saxon race is threatened with decay, and the American branch of it is in the more parlous state. Statistics show that in Chicago there is one lunatic in every 150 persons. There is nothing very new in the explanation given.

"For years past we have been oppressing the laws of nature, and the increase of lunacy, which is becoming a burden to the British tax-payer and a menace to our efficiency as a race, is one of the signs that nature is demanding the penalty. In a sentence, it may be said that thousands of persons in this country have so transformed their lives that their existence is more artificial than natural. We live in a time of enforced brain activity and in an environment full of social evils that spell ruin to the mind and body of men and women. We see women departing from their natural sphere of domesticity. Some call it their 'emancipation.' It is one of the causes of decay. One half of the people now living in London were never destined by heredity to reside in the place, or to bear the tax which their nervous system is suffering. No brain specialist underestimates the influence of alcohol as a cause of insanity, but I believe that in the present competitive age the consumption of what I may describe as 'quackeries' is far more deleterious to the people than alcohol. And when you consider the drinking habits of the poorer classes, it is an evil which is largely associated with environment."

These things have been remarked by others during the last five decades; and there are authorities who declare, in all seriousness, that though the proportion certified insane is large, there is a still larger proportion halting between reason and unreason, people referred to in France as *dégenérés supérieurs*, and in Italy as "mattoids". There can be little doubt that the Anglo-Saxon race is more given to emotionalism than it was; that the perfectly sane person contemptuously styled "Philistine" has become comparatively rare. The unnamed "eminent authority" whom the papers quote is by no means original with his etiology. Brain specialists who do not underestimate the effects of alcohol have not underestimated what he calls "quackeries" either. Dr. B. A. MOREL, whose "*Traité des Dégenérances*" established him as perhaps the greatest authority, dwells insistently upon poisoning, which term includes nearly all stimulants and narcotics, impure foods, and organic infections. The connection between the growing migration to large towns and the increase of hysteria, neurasthenia, and arrested physical development, has also been noted. The march of civilisation seems to be a pace too killing for ambitious humanity. It also has been taken into account, hence the numerous advocates of the "Simple Life". NORDAU remarked nearly a dozen years ago that we (civilisation) were moving too fast. "All its [humanity's] conditions of life have, in this period of time [the last fifty years], experienced a revolution unexampled in the history of the world. Humanity can point to no century in which the inventions which penetrate so deeply, so tyrannically, into the life of every individual are crowded so thick as in ours."

Previous important changes there were, but "they did not change the material life of

man. He got up and laid down, ate and drank, dressed, undressed himself, passed his days and years as he had been always wont to do. In our times, on the contrary, steam and electricity have turned the customs of life of every member of the civilized nations upside down." And though we fare better than in the old days, we have not evolved digestive apparatus to work well enough to cope with the enormous increase in organic expenditure, particularly the expenditure affecting the brain and nervous system. All this is directly traceable to commercial "hustle", and it is of no use dwelling too much upon it. We have gone too far to go back; and the bitters of civilisation must be taken with the sweets.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

23rd April.

When I hazarded the guess last week that a certain Governmental department might economise by using envelopes over and over again if the necessary forethought were exercised to request that each be returned, I was much nearer the truth than I imagined. I have learned that communications in other departments must not be enclosed in envelopes unless the communication is confidential, and then the cover should bear the notice asking that it be returned to the office from which it was issued. Moreover, it has come to my knowledge that a whole sheet of notepaper must not be used where a half would be sufficient, and should an envelope be received which would not be available for future service, it should be cut into four and used for writing necessary odds. Carrying the same principle still further, necessary permits which have to be issued by officials are printed on paper, the reverse side of which has done duty in some other form.

Here is economy if you like. It ought to delight the hearts of our careful, canny Scotch bodies, who would not use a match if paper were available, and who are led to express surprise and alarm when they "bang a sixpence." No one will find fault with the authorities for being careful and taking pains to prevent waste even in such small matters, but their action is open to the criticism that more thought is devoted to the spending of a few cents than to the expenditure of thousands of dollars. Still, it is pleasant to note that extravagance does not characterise all official proceedings, and we may not hope in vain to see that the community benefits by this exercise of economy.

That the Chinaman does not lavish a great amount of affection on his daughters is proverbial, but it is not often that this lack of sentiment is so apparent as in the case of the Cantonese guide about whom the following story is told. He had escorted a party of Easter visitors to one of the pagodas, where the party sat down to enjoy a rest and a sandwich. "Are you married?" "Yes." "Any children?" "One daughter. But she no likes my food." "What do you mean?" "She die." At this he smiled, a proceeding which seemed so unnatural that one of the gentlemen remarked, "Very funny, isn't it?" The guide, who knew English well, failed to appreciate the sarcasm, for he grinned still more and added "Maskee daughter: more better son."

In the countries which comprise the United Kingdom a common topographical feature is the frequency with which some fabulous or historical leap is commemorated. For instance, there come to mind such names as the Devil's Leap, the Soldier's Leap, the Smuggler's Leap, but of course there are many more which readers will doubtless recall. Hongkong is not rich in this kind of nomenclature, though it may be that a certain spot in Queen's Road East will achieve some degree of notoriety by what may be described as the gambler's leap. During a police raid on a house where gambling was going on one of the panic-stricken natives jumped from the third floor kitchen into the air shaft or back yard, a distance of 50 feet, or 49 feet to be precise. Of course the result was fatal in his case, but another coolie, apparently

for no other reason than that he had seen another man do it, also leaped from the window. His experience was different, for he was able to enter the Police Station and say he had jumped out of the window. He had only a sprained foot to show as the result of his daring but stupid deed. Truly a marvellous escape!

In these days when football has attained such popularity that "gates" are counted by tens of thousands and a final at the Happy Valley brings out hundreds of spectators, it will provoke a smile to read that among the acts of the Scottish Parliament which the Lord Advocate now puts forward for repeal as obsolete or unnecessary is one dated 14/4 and bearing the quaint title "Of Playing at the Foot Ball." Apparently it was framed to prevent the youth of the country spending the time at football which should be employed in archery practice, in which alas, they were woefully deficient compared with their rivals south of the Border. Even to-day there are those who think that there is too much homage paid to the god of exercise and that more serious attention to business would make less probable those frequent outbursts about the success of foreign competition, but those who decry the value of sport would hardly wish to see such an Act enforced as to prohibit football or other manly exercises.

This reminds me that the football season in Hongkong has been brought to a close by the splendid victory which the team from H.M.S. *Diadem* achieved over the Hongkong Club on Saturday afternoon. It was a brilliant scene at the close, when the cosmopolitan population, with its variety of colour and pictur-sque dress acclaimed the winners, and the Commodore presented the Shield to the winning team. After all, it was only the expected that happened. It has been realised during the season that the sailors showed better form and played better football than the landsmen, and their success has been thoroughly deserved.

I felt somewhat aggrieved on Saturday night when some Americans jeered at our Fire Brigade. They made fun of the engine tearing along the principal thoroughfare at the rate of three miles an hour, and one of them became so excited that he rushed into the middle of the road and tried to persuade a stolid Indian policeman to remove himself from the danger zone. Then they laughed when they saw the helmeted men return in rickshas. It seemed like a parody to them that one was heard to declare that they couldn't beat that in "Noo York." Admittedly the absence of horses dashing through the streets with the engine on which men are seated furiously blowing whistles robs a turnout of the Fire Brigade of that picturesqueness which it possesses at home, but it has to be remembered that the conditions here are not the same and the Brigade is a useful institution and not an ornament.

BANYAN.

BEGGARS AND BEACHCOMBERS.

A WARNING TO SHIPMASTERS.

The Singapore Government has sent to the Hongkong Government copies of an Act to prevent the landing and leaving of decrepit beggars at Straits Settlement ports. The Act has been recently amended. It is to be published in the next *Government Gazette*. It will then be seen that it imposes on the master or consignee of any vessel bringing such persons to the Colony the liability of either re-conveying them to their port of embarkation or paying to the Government the costs that are incurred by the Colony for their maintenance and removal, and also renders the master liable to a fine in the event of their being landed without the leave of the Chief Police Officer. Masters and owners of vessels conveying passengers to the Colony should therefore take precautions against accepting as passengers any persons not natives of the Colony or Federated Malay States who may reasonably be suspected of belonging to any of the classes of persons described in Section 1 of the Act, for whose landing in the Colony the consent of the Government has not previously been obtained.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.

APPOINTMENT BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Owing to the Hon. Mr R. Shewan having left for home on holiday, a temporary vacancy on the Legislative Council has occurred. To fill this the Chamber of Commerce, whose representative Mr. Shewan was, held a meeting, which was well attended, in the City Hall on the 26th April. Mr. E. A. Hewett, the chairman of the Chamber, presided, and there were also present—Messrs. N. A. Sieba, H. M. Tibbey, A. V. Apcar, H. M. Nemazee, D. R. Law, W. D. Graham, F. J. V. George, R. Bishop, A. Shelton Hooper, T. F. Hough, A. G. Wood, J. R. M. Smith, G. H. Medhurst, S. H. Michael, W. Danby, E. S. Kadoorie, H. Suter, S. D. Setna, A. Rumjahn (representing Rumjahn and Co.), D. M. Nissim, O. Ellis, J. J. Leiria, G. A. Champeaux, A. S. Mihara, H. E. Tompkins, G. C. Moxon, J. O. Hughes, L. Engel, A. Haupt, and A. Forbes.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

The Chairman read the following letter:

Colonial Secretary's Office,

19th April, 1905.

SIR.—I am directed to inform you that Mr. R. Shewan has tendered his resignation of his seat in the Legislative Council, which has been accepted by H.E. the Governor, and to request that the Chamber of Commerce will be good enough to take steps at an early date to nominate a member for the vacancy which has been occasioned.

T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

The CHAIRMAN also read a letter received the same day from Mr. Shewan, wishing the Chamber success. He was sure the Chamber would all endorse the views expressed by the committee in thanking Mr. Shewan for his service during the period he had represented the Chamber. Proceeding, he said that only one candidate had been nominated for the vacancy, proposed by Mr. Wood, vice-chairman, and seconded by Mr. Law. The regulations were that in such a case it was not necessary to have a ballot. The election only required a show of hands.

Mr. Wood then proposed the appointment of Mr. E. A. Hewett, who he was sure would pay great attention to the affairs of the Legislative Council (applause).

Mr. Law seconded.

There being no other nomination,

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Wood and Mr. Law for having proposed and seconded his appointment and the members for the kind manner in which they had accepted it. He had been associated with the Chamber of Commerce for six years and he could assure the members that he would endeavour to work on behalf of the Chamber in the future as he had done in the past.

A show of hands was then taken, and resulted in the appointment being carried unanimously.

Mr. HEWETT again thanked the members and repeated his statement that he would do his best to look after their interests. Before they separated he referred to the terrible disaster that had befallen San Francisco and neighbouring cities. As we had been connected with California from early days and as Hongkong had been connected with San Francisco for many years to our mutual advantage we all felt the blow almost as if it had fallen upon ourselves. That being so, the committee thought it would only be expressing the opinion of the Hongkong community in sending the following telegram to the Governor of California on 23rd inst.—"The Chamber of Commerce desires to tender to the city of San Francisco and neighbourhood its heartiest sympathy in dire calamity that has befallen them."

This concluded the business.

Early on the 26th April a Chinese girl attempted to commit suicide by jumping off the Praya in Connaught Road near Centre Street. She was rescued by a sampan man and taken to No. 7 Police Station, where she informed Inspector Collett that she "wanted to make die". She refused to tell the police where she lived or what troubled her.

SUPREME COURT.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

Saturday, 21st April.

APPLICATION FOR RELEASE OF CHINESE MERCHANTS.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Dr. Ho Kai appeared in support of a writ of *habeas corpus* on behalf of the seven Chinese merchants, witnesses in the trial of an issue to determine whether Wong Ka-cheung was a partner in the Lai Hing Bank which had become bankrupt.

Mr. Sharp, in opening, directed his Lordship's attention to the motion that his Lordship's order dated 10th April, 1906, be dissolved, discharge the commitment and release the bail.

His Lordship observed that his motion was for *habeas corpus*.

Mr. Sharp thought it would be more convenient to take the short application first.

His Lordship said he granted the writ of *habeas corpus* yesterday only for the convenience of parties.

Mr. Sharp added that both would be taken that morning.

His Lordship remarked that he had very great doubt as to whether *habeas corpus* was the proper procedure.

Mr. Sharp said it would be unnecessary to consider that if his Lordship granted the application. The point had been raised in two ways. If his Lordship would grant that motion it would be unnecessary to consider *habeas corpus*.

The question whether *habeas corpus* was the proper remedy was argued at length.

Mr. Pollock followed Mr. Sharp and quoted authorities, after which his Lordship intimated that he would give his decision on that point on Monday (to-day).

Mr. Sharp then moved that the Chief Justice's order made on April 10, whereby Chen Ho-kin, Chen Yam, Tsang Hung, Wong Sai-ho, Lau Sing-kin, Chu Kai-un, and Ng In-ting were sentenced to three months' imprisonment, be dissolved and that they be discharged on the ground that they were not informed by the Chief Justice what statements made by them respectively constituted the alleged perjury, and on the ground that before sentence was passed upon them an opportunity was not given to them of being heard in their own behalf, or of showing cause why they should not be so committed.

His Lordship pointed out the summons had been taken out in chambers, which practically covered that ground. And then there was the material point that the order only referred to seven, whereas the commitment was of eight men, one man having disappeared before the warrant was issued.

Mr. Sharp, having read the motion, quoted the section of the Ordinance dealing with perjury, and said he would ask that the important phrase therein "it appears to the court" meant it judicially appeared to the court under the observance of the essential principles on which judicial enquiries must be conducted. He then read from the official report of his Lordship's commitment and submitted that that commitment was bad upon the grounds stated in the notice of motion. The two essential grounds were, (1) that the prisoners were not informed by the Chief Justice of the statements made by them respectively of the alleged perjury; (2) an opportunity was not given to the prisoners of being heard on their own behalf. He submitted that it was a fundamental and invariable principle of law that no person could be punished until he had been given an opportunity of being heard in his own defence, and a very material part of this right was the right to call evidence if it should be necessary. He quoted authorities in support of his contention.

His Lordship said that in this case the witnesses were almost parties. The Official Receiver was suing for creditors.

Mr. Sharp said those people were not present when the evidence was given, as they would have been had they been parties. They came there on the last night to hear the judgment.

His Lordship—I believe they were here every day.

Mr. Sharp—Some of them might, but not all of them.

His Lordship—A good many.

Mr. Sharp, continuing, said those witnesses or prisoners might have shown—although it was not part of his Lordship's duty to consider what defence they might have shown, and he himself should certainly not consider the point—that the statements they had made were true. He had no doubt in fact they would have called further evidence to prove their statements. He was not going to consider what defence they might have raised if they had been given the opportunity. The point was that by the fundamental principle of law they must be given that opportunity. He then cited a case in which five judges unanimously concurred in those findings, and went further and said that they had a right to call witnesses.

His Lordship—Then that would make it inevitable to try the case again, which would occupy another two or three days, keeping the jury impanelled and witnesses in attendance.

Mr. Sharp—But surely your Lordship could conclude the first case—in fact, you had concluded the case and had given your decision, and the jury had done all that was required of them and they had no concern with the alleged perjury and only awaited their discharge. Mr. Sharp went on to quote several cases from the Privy Council and submitted that this Court could not over-ride decisions of that Council.

His Lordship—But surely my summing up indicated in what the perjury consisted when I mentioned their statements about Wong Ka-cheung's being present at and addressing the meeting of creditors?

Mr. Sharp—But only one or two of the men speak English, even if one or two more understand it, and they could not follow your Lordship's summing up. And even if they could that would not fill the requirement of the law, which requires that the men be informed and given an opportunity to be heard in their own defence. As a matter of fact, only two or three of the men said they were present at the meeting, but your Lordship committed them all. The commitment was again bad, for the law required that the warrant be signed by the judge committing, whereas this warrant was not signed by your Lordship, but by the Registrar. That certainly is a technical point, but taking all the reasons given your Lordship I must ask you to make an order for the release of these men from gaol.

Mr. Pollock, continuing the argument after tiffin, submitted that it was necessary when a conviction under the summary powers of the Court was made and sentence passed it should be on a definite charge, because although there was no appeal under criminal laws everybody had a right to petition to the Governor or Governor in Council with reference to the conviction. As the arrest and imprisonment of the seven men had been illegal and unjudicial he must ask his Lordship to order their immediate release.

His Lordship: Well, I would like to give a decision now, but I must consider the points further and will give my decision on Monday.

The Court then adjourned.

Monday, April 23rd.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A DISPUTED PROMISSORY NOTE.

Fung Chun-yuen sued Tang Tait-man and Woo Tuk, partners in the Hung Yuen Bank, together with the Hung Yuen Bank, of 167, Queen's Road Central, for \$9,737, being principal and interest, due from defendants to plaintiff as makers of a promissory note for \$10,000 dated 30th October, 1905, in favour of the plaintiff. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff. No appearance was entered by either of the defendants.

Mr. Sharp said that one of the defendants was not expected to be present. Only one of the defendants had entered an appearance, but he had absconded without filing a statement of defence under the order made by his Lordship.

The plaintiff, a building contractor, residing at 5, Old Bailey Street, said he had formerly been a partner in the Hung Yuen Bank, but retired in October last when he sold his share to the defendants, with whom he entered into an agreement. Under this he lent them \$10,000 and received a promissory note from them. On the 28th of November last he received \$400 to account. He had asked Tang Tait-man for the balance, and he promised to pay in the beginning of this year, but he had failed to do so.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED ITEM.

The case in which Ma Chun and Li Chung sued the Kwong Ying Lung firm to recover the sum of \$103.80 for work done and material supplied was resumed.

Mr. H. J. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding) for the defendants.

The defence set up was that defendant had paid the account in kind, rice, but this was denied by plaintiff, and the accounts were referred to the Court shroff for a report.

His report having been presented,

Mr. Harding said—I pointed out with reference to a payment of over \$600, part of which plaintiff alleged was rice, he could show that it was a cash transaction.

His Lordship—According to the shroff's report when you paid \$102.00 you only owed \$60. Can you explain the over-payment?

Mr. Harding—I think I can explain that satisfactorily.

Mr. Gardiner—I do not think so. If my friend is to call further evidence, we have others to call.

Mr. Harding—There was another contract running at the same time with respect to the same premises between the same parties, and that is the reason why a rebate was not claimed.

Mr. Gardiner—I think the books will show there was consideration for the over payment.

Defendant was called and stated that he overpaid \$41.55.

His Lordship—Unless you can come to an arrangement I will have all the books translated and laid before me; but I do not want to put you to so much expense. It is the fault of the defendant; he should not mix his accounts up in that way.

Mr. Harding submitted that on the evidence the plaintiff had not proved his case, as he admitted receiving rice, for which defendant had a receipt.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff with costs.

Thursday, April 24th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR THE RELEASE OF CHINESE PRISONERS.

Judgment in this application was given.

His Lordship said:—By section 31 of Ordinance 3 of 1873, it is provided "that if in any civil action it appears to the Court that any person examined as a witness upon oath or declaration has committed wilful and corrupt perjury," the Court may direct a prosecution for perjury to be forthwith instituted: "or where such perjury is committed by any person examined as a witness in open Court, it shall be lawful for the Court, instead of directing such prosecution to be instituted as aforesaid, either to commit such witness, as for a contempt of the Court, to prison for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour, or to fine such witness in any sum not exceeding \$100." Here is about as plain a set of words used for declaring a plain purpose as could well be imagined: and I acted on the summary powers conferred by the section at the close of the trial of an issue directed in the bankruptcy of the Lai Hing Bank. The issue was whether Wong Ka-cheung was a partner in the Bank, and it was tried before me with a common jury, the trial lasting six days. I sentenced to imprisonment who had given evidence of acts alleged to have been committed by Wong Ka-cheung in his alleged capacity as partner, eight witnesses called for the plaintiff in the issue, addressing to seven of them who were in Court when the verdict was given, the following words:—"These eight witnesses have to my mind been guilty of the most flagrant conspiracy to defraud the alleged partner Wong Ka-cheung. They have each been guilty of the most corrupt perjury, and in virtue of the provisions of the law which empowers me to deal at once with such cases, I commit each of them to prison for three months without hard labour." One of the eight, Wong Tse, was not in Court, and the bailiff has been unable to execute the warrant. He described himself as the managing partner of the Wong Wing Cheong firm in Hongkong since 1901. It is not stretching inference too far to say that he must then and there have gone into hiding and absconded. My action has been challenged: and according to the argument, what seems so plain is in reality obscure: what appears to be such a straightforward direction is in reality so full of complexity, so tedious, so devious, that I doubt whether, if the argument is sound, it would be possible to put the provision of the law as to summary punishment in force. As if to make everything correspond, a most complex method was adopted for bringing the matter before me. There was first a motion for a *habeas corpus* to bring up the prisoners: and secondly a direct motion to the Court to release them from custody on certain grounds which I will deal with presently. It was admitted that everything that could be said in favour of the liberation could be said on the motion, and that the *habeas corpus* was not necessary to bringing the motion. Why the writ was moved for I fail to understand; but as it was applied for, and as I granted it in chambers, subject to the question being argued whether it was a proper application to make in the circumstances, the point involved must be considered. I cannot read the case of *ex parte Fernandez* in any other way than as laying down in as clear a manner as possible that a writ of *habeas corpus* will not lie where the commitment has been by a superior Court of record. The principle of the decision is that a superior Court may adjudge a man guilty of contempt and imprison him without setting forth on the face of the warrant of commitment the grounds upon which its adjudication proceeded: and as it is the validity of the legal process which is tested by *habeas corpus*, there is in the case of a commitment for contempt by a superior Court no ground for issuing the *habeas corpus*: therefore the writ was refused. That principle covers the grounds of the motion for the writ in this case: But it may be looked at from another point of view. Obviously from the very nature of the proceedings, they must be taken in a Court superior to that from which the commitment issued. It is manifestly inappropriate to take them in the Court from which the commitment in fact issued. It involves among other things the anomaly that in order to conform to the practice which requires an affidavit to be filed—for the obvious purpose of informing the superior Court what has happened in the inferior Court—the solicitor filed an affidavit informing the Court of what it had itself done: which it perfectly well knows without such information. I cannot follow the interpretation of the decision in Fernandez' case which the learned counsel endeavoured to put upon it. Undoubtedly there was an attempt to review the decision on the merits; and Mr. Bevill, the counsel for Fernandez, admitted that in order to sustain his motion he must show the warrant of commitment to be void. But the Court did not assent to the necessity of such an admission: it simply pointed out that the ground on which he sought to establish the affirmative of that proposition—that the warrant did not set out the evidence or grounds upon which the learned Judge came to the conclusion he did—failed if the Court of Assize was a superior Court. The Court then enquired whether the Court of Assize was a superior Court, found that it was, and refused the writ. It is true that there does seem a tendency in the judgments of Wilkes and Byles J.J. to examine the merits of

the motion as if it were an argument on the return to the writ, but that was a concession to the eminence of the counsel arguing, as is clear from what Willis J. said (at p 41 of the Report in 10 C. B. N. 3) and from the sentence at the end of Byles J.'s judgment, "I am by no means prepared to decide, even if the law were as the learned counsel contends, that this warrant is not perfectly good." The reason of the thing is as clear as this authority, that this is not a case for a *habeas corpus*, and moreover that there is no denial of justice, because, as was pointed out in *Howard v. Gissell*, there is always an appeal to the justice of the court. In fact this motion has and can be made: it could indeed have been made on much wider grounds. The writ is therefore quashed. I now come to the substantive motion. It was argued that the commitment was bad for three reasons: first, that the prisoners were not informed what statements made by them respectively constituted the alleged perjury: secondly that before sentence was passed upon them an opportunity was not given to them of being heard in their own behalf: and thirdly, that an opportunity was not given to them of showing cause why they should not be so committed. These reasons are not based on the words of the section, but on the general principle that no man is to be condemned without being heard: and in order to introduce this principle into the case, the words "if it appears to the Court" were paraphrased into "if it appears to the Court after the observance of all essential principles on which enquiries should be conducted". Already the very plain words of the section are becoming nebulous, and their purpose obscured: but when the meaning of this paraphrase is understood they are lost to sight completely. If there were any doubt as to the meaning of the expression "the essential principles on which enquiries should be conducted", it is supplied by the argument of counsel: it must include the calling of witnesses, and obviously therefore examination and cross-examination: and obviously also speeches from learned counsel. The paraphrase involves a *petitio principii*: for the question is whether the Legislature, in giving the Courts this power to deal summarily with perjury, did not mean to do away with the necessity of any further enquiry: and if there is no enquiry, the essential principles vanish. But putting this on one side, see what the suggested paraphrase brings us to. At the end of a trial the witnesses who, in the opinion of the Court, have committed perjury are to be allowed to call witnesses to show that what they have said is not perjury. Now, as perjury is a false statement of a fact material to the issue, this means practically that the case must be re-tried. The witnesses who have been called will be called again: and, what is worse, others will probably be extemporised for the occasion. And then, what of the witnesses on the other side? The other party to the action is not a party to this fresh enquiry: is the Court to call them, and conduct the case? I really do not know; but what I do know is that the result would be a re-hearing: a re-hearing without the proper machinery for a hearing: and the consequence might be—I conceive it possible—a finding directly contrary to the finding already arrived at, for if it were found that the witnesses did not commit perjury, then the former finding was probably wrong, and would have to be reversed. This general consideration cannot be better exemplified than by the present case. It was put in motion by the, or some of the, creditors. Although a large number of creditors could, if the facts alleged had been true, have come into the box to speak to them, a few only did so. Being of opinion that these witnesses lied, I am told that I ought to have given them an opportunity of repeating or elaborating their lies, and the other witnesses, who, for reasons best known to themselves, did not give evidence at the trial, an opportunity to come forward after the twelfth hour has struck and make similar statements. It would be a travesty of justice if such a thing were possible. It may be said that all this might happen if the presiding Judge directs a prosecution for perjury instead of acting summarily, and the jury acquitted the accused. An acquittal in such circumstances, other than for some technical question involved

in the law of perjury, is almost inconceivable, unless very weighty evidence, entirely unsullied by the original lying, were adduced. Obviously such evidence could not be forthcoming at the close of the trial, but if it is forthcoming afterwards there is nothing to prevent the Judge who has condemned the witness summarily from dealing with it and doing justice. The sum and substance of the whole matter can be put quite shortly: the exercise of this summary jurisdiction excludes the possibility of any long-drawn-out enquiry and discretion is vested in the Judge, if he thinks the case not a proper one for summary punishment, to order a prosecution, when such an enquiry may be made. The fact that this discretion is given of itself negatives the argument on this point. This method of looking at the case treats the three grounds of the motion as one, as indeed they are; because there is an evident link between all three. The witnesses are to be told in what they have committed perjury in order that they may say what they have to say in their own behalf, and in order that they may, by calling witnesses, shew cause why they should not be committed. But I will take the three grounds singly. They are to be told in what the perjury consists. I see no reason why. It might involve a long statement and an elaborate analysis of the evidence, which might lead to unseemly discussion and controversy afterwards. In this case the statements would have been complicated, because the statements which I considered perjury related to the main facts of the case in varying degrees: some, as in the case of Tsang Hung, not perhaps by itself of sufficient gravity to be dealt with summarily had it stood. What I said was, that I considered the eight men had been guilty of conspiracy to defraud Wong Ka-cheung, and had given false evidence, obviously as to the facts from which it was hoped that the alleged partnership would be inferred. It was this palpable conspiracy which made the perjury of the different witnesses of the same degree in crime; although they were not in the same degree as to the importance of the facts spoken to. It was surely superfluous for me to add "I disbelieve every material fact to which you eight men have respectively sworn." If that is not the necessary inference from what I said I know no other which is possible. But there is another consideration which throws light on this part of the case. Supposing the witness not to be present, what then? There is nothing in the section which says that the commitment can only be made if the witness is present. It is hardly conceivable that the powers of the Court are to be nullified by the witness stepping out of the Court directly he has heard the verdict, and evading pursuit until the Canton boat starts in the evening. It is more than probable that Wong Tse has done something like this: anyhow he was not present. Am I to hold that my warrant was bad in his case? It is impossible to imagine such a thing. Mr. Pollock, when I put this point to him, contended that all I could do in such a case would be, and therefore what I ought to have done in Wong Tse's case should have been, to issue a warrant of arrest, and then I suppose commit him afterwards should he be found. The section does not give the Court such a power: and I feel certain that the subsequent commitment would be entirely inconsistent with the exercise of the power of summary punishment, and of very doubtful legality. Really this question, as to which I have no doubt, that the warrant of commitment may issue even if the witness is not present, disposes of those other imaginary conditions which have been attached to the exercise of the power, which of themselves imply that the witness is present: that the witness should be asked if he has anything to say in his own behalf, or be allowed to show cause why he should not be committed. But if he be present it can hardly have been intended that the Court which believes the witness to have lied should give him an opportunity of adding another to his former lies. And as to the venerable formula which asks a prisoner if he has anything to say why he should not be sentenced, it is disused by many Judges except in capital cases: and though there is no objection to its being put as was suggested in Sunder Singh's case by the Full Court, I for one think it superfluous. I now come to the cases in which it has been held that a man is not to be condemned before he is heard. The distinction between those cases and the present one is so clear that I should have thought it unnecessary to point it out. A summons must precede a warrant of distress for non-payment of a poor rate in order that the party may show sufficient cause why the distress should not issue, as, for instance, that he has already paid the rate to a parish officer who has not accounted for it (see *Lord Kenyon C. J. in R. v. Bona*). And so an order to commit for non-payment of an installment under an old practice of imprisonment for debt might only take place where the debtor has had an opportunity of showing that he had not committed any delinquency, but that he had not the means of paying the installment: the principle of the statute being that there was to be an inquiry into the property or means of payment which the debtor had (*ex parte Kinneg*). The rector of St. Bennett, charged with having been intoxicated during divine service, had had (according to the return to a mandamus) no opportunity of making any defence to the charge brought against him: (*R. v. Gaskin*). The vicar of Watford, charged with negligently performing the duties of his parish church, was held entitled to adduce evidence to prove that the charge was ungrounded: (*Capel v. Child*). The schoolmaster, removed from his office on complaints as to his conduct, was held entitled to be heard on the charges made against him: (*Fisher v. Jackson*). The Commissioners who had come to the conclusion that a certain person was non-resident on certain lands in Queensland, and had forfeited them, were held to have acted wrongly because he had had no opportunity of explaining or rebutting the evidence which had been given as to his non-residence. And so on through all the cases in which such grievances have been redressed. But why were these grievances redressed? Why was it necessary to emphasise the doctrine *audi alteram partem*, and to hold that "statutory powers must be legally exercised"? Because the facts were assumed against the persons sentenced or penalised, and they had had no opportunity of disproving them. How can those cases be applicable to the present case? What can *audi alteram partem* have to do with this matter? The witnesses have said what they had to say, and the power is given to the Court to declare that what they have said is perjury. What conceivable analogy is there between the questions in the two cases? The summary power is given to the Court, and the Court is bound to exercise it to keep, if it be possible, its trials pure. Large powers indeed to be given to a Judge: but there is an appeal to the Justice of the Court, to the Full Court, and ultimately to the Privy Council. The appeal to H. E. the Governor, which was referred to, is that he may exercise his prerogative of mercy, and for no other purpose. Let me add this: that in the case of scandalous misuse of the power, and any misuse of such a power would be scandalous, there is an appeal of another kind, to the highest authority of the land, to whom we are all subject. I was pressed with the decision of the Judicial Committee in Pollard's case, by which I am bound if it is applicable to the present case. That was a case of contempt of court: this, as was pointed out by counsel, is one of perjury: and though it is said that the perjury is to be punished "as for a contempt", it still remains perjury, governed by the statute which confers the power of summary punishment, and is not contempt. Now the Judicial Committee said that, in the case of contempt "the specific offence charged is to be distinctly stated, and an opportunity of answering it given." Oswald gives a case which goes much further: *re Ramsey* (L.R. 3 P.C. 427), which he quotes as deciding that each step in the proceedings to punish contempt should be fairly, properly, and strictly taken. The report of the Judicial Committee seems to warrant this statement: the important part of it, however, in its bearing upon the present question, is that which points out that the rule in the case had been issued without any evidence that the person who had written and published the letters which had been held to be a contempt of court. These cases go far to show that contempt of court is not an offence to be dealt with summarily, a perhaps popularly imagined

ed, but that its punishment must be preceded by something approaching a regular enquiry. There are many cases in which this is obvious, as in the case of newspaper comments: it is only when the contempt is in open court that the dealing with the case seems to be summary, and this the Judicial Committee have decided is not a proper method of dealing with it. It is not necessary to pursue the supposed analogy between the case of contempt and that of perjury any further, because the law in the case of perjury makes it punishable summarily; and if punishable summarily the power must be exercised then and there *sedentis curia*. I can see no half-way house between the course which I adopted in this case and the impossible procedure suggested by the learned counsel. And, if Pollard's case is not applicable, I am bound by the decision of the Full Court in Sunder Singh's case decided in 1897: and I desire to say that I agree with every word which fell from the learned Judges, except, for the reasons already stated, as to the desirability of putting to the witness the question whether he has anything to say why he should not be committed. The last point taken was as to the necessity of the warrant being under the hand and seal of the committing Judge. The authority cited was Hawkins' *Pleas of the Crown*, where it is said that a commitment "must be in writing, under the hand and seal of the person by whom it is made, and expressing his office, or authority, and the time and place at which it is made". To act on this would be upsetting the practice of this Court since its foundation. On reference to the *New Encyclopaedia*—and I wish to say here that no book published in modern times has more facilitated or expedited the administration of justice, nor enabled Courts to deal more promptly with false points which are sprung upon them, than this valuable work—I find it suggested that this saying of Hawkins, so far as the necessity for a written commitment is concerned, does not apply to courts of record. The reference is to *Burns' Justice of the Peace*, and there (p. 851 of the 20th edition) it is quoted with reference to Justices specially: but there follows this limitation: "but this is to be understood of those cases where a statute either expressly or in effect so requires, for independently of the requirements of a statute, there does not appear to be any general principle requiring a seal." This was decided by *Erle J. in re Bowdler* (17 L. J. Q. B. 243). And what is true of the "seal" must also be true of the "hand"; so that nothing is left of Hawkins' statement. As a matter of fact this order was made in the course of civil proceedings, and so falls within section 349 of the *Code of Civil Procedure*, which enables a minute of every order to be made by the Registrar, and which gives such minute the same force and effect as an order of the Court. The learned counsel who appeared for the plaintiff on the issue contended that I had not "acted judicially" in this matter. This is a serious charge to make against a judge and one to which the maxim *audi alteram partem* is peculiarly applicable. If to act, after a long trial, or a conviction which had been growing day by day as the trial proceeded, a conviction based on the demeanour of the witnesses in the box, and a more shifting lot of witnesses I never came across: on the complete failure of their evidence to come within measurable distance of the opening of counsel on an important branch of the case, on their petty denials of facts which were irrelevant almost to the issue, and on that general impression of their veracity which it is the duty of a Judge to receive: having regard too to the position of these men, who were to all intents and purposes plaintiffs in the issue, and to the absence of the other creditors, far more numerous, who might have spoken to that part of the case which concerned the management of the Bank, if it were true: or of the remainder of the thirty, or forty alleged to have been present at the creditors' meeting, and who might have spoken to what Wong Ka-cheung is stated to have said, if that were true: having regard further to the many points of prejudice against the defendant which were commenced or hinted at but not pressed home, and of which I greatly disapproved, was acting "judicially"; then: and if, after the most serious consideration subsequently, which a Judge is bound to give

when he has exercised such harsh and summary powers as these, I believe my action to have been right, by not acting "judicially" now, then the word "judicial" has lost all meaning. The motion is refused.

Mr. Sharp—I have to ask your Lordship now, following the precedent in the case on which your Lordship has relied, that of Sunder Singh, with a view to proceedings which I think your Lordship is aware it is intended to take by way of an application for appeal to His Majesty's Privy Council, to stay further execution of your order for one month.

His Lordship—The next appeal is to the Full Court.

Mr. Sharp—I don't think—

His Lordship—In that case of Sunder Singh the appeal was brought before the Full Court. There was a condemnation by the Puisne Judge and the application to have it set aside was made before the Full Court.

Mr. Sharp—As your Lordship is aware, an appeal lies direct to the Privy Council, and I think under the circumstances—your Lordship taking the view which you have taken—it would be superfluous to appeal again to the Full Court in which your Lordship has the preponderating vote. I think you will agree, following the precedent in Pollard's case, that this would be the convenient course to take here in order to save time and trouble. We quite respect your Lordship's view. We would ask your Lordship to stay execution to consider whether we should appeal to the Privy Council. The intention is the same as in the case mentioned.

His Lordship—The application is for a month in which to consider your position?

Mr. Sharp—It is necessary to consider our position—to take necessary steps which cannot be taken instantaneously.

His Lordship—That would postpone the imprisonment for a year.

Mr. Sharp—Supposing the Privy Council decides in our favour it would only be just that meanwhile the prisoners should be out of goal, otherwise the decision in their favour would do them no good. If the Privy Council take the view we submit these men would not be imprisoned.

His Lordship—Supposing the Privy Council does not support your view?

Mr. Sharp—They would have to return to prison.

His Lordship—Then it would be no use staying execution for a month.

Mr. Sharp—We thought it better to adhere to this precedent. If it is intended to appeal to the Privy Council, we shall make application, but we wish first to consider our position. The matter will come before your Lordship automatically in a month's time. If your Lordship prefers three weeks we will take it so.

His Lordship—Take a month. The execution will be stayed for a month.

Mr. Sharp—Thank you.

His Lordship—Bail must be fixed.

Mr. Sharp—Would your Lordship take the same amount, \$750 each man?

His Lordship—I think the security should be \$1,000 in each case. The execution is only with regard to the seven.

Mr. Sharp—The principle applies in the same way to the eighth man.

His Lordship—But he is evading the law.

Mr. Sharp—If we are right in principle the protection applies to this man as well.

His Lordship—I should not dream of staying the execution against Wong Tee. He is evading the law.

Mr. Sharp—if he comes before your Lordship, he will be put in the same position.

His Lordship—That is another matter. I should require much heavier bail in his case.

Mr. Sharp—is it true that no attempt has been made to find Wong Tee?

His Lordship called the bailiff, Mr. Howell, who said he had been unable to find Wong Tee.

His Lordship—We must leave Wong Tee's case. I cannot pledge myself.

Mr. Sharp—We have every reason to believe the man has been in his shop every day. He was certainly there for several days after the trial.

The Court was adjourned.

Thursday, April 29th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE SALE OF A NEWSPAPER.

This was an appeal from the decision of the Puisne Judge in the case of Tam Man Sam v. Tam Yau and Cheung San-pang, the original action being a claim for \$1,000, \$500 for return of money deposited by plaintiff with defendant on 2nd June, 1905, in part payment of purchase money for the business, property and effects of the Si Kai Kung Yick Co., under contract, and \$500 for damages for breach of said contract. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for appellants, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon), appeared for respondents.

The facts were that a Chinese newspaper was offered for sale, and plaintiff's tender was accepted by the liquidators, but when plaintiff and his staff attempted to take possession on a certain date they were ordered out.

Mr. Pollock, in opening, said their Lordships would remember that the matter came before the Court on a previous occasion. An order was made on 4th November, 1905, for a special case to be stated, but when the matter came subsequently before their Lordships it transpired that the parties could not agree on the special case to be stated, and following the suggestion made by the Court each party was to give its own version of the various clauses in dispute. It would be convenient if he referred to the special case, because it contained the document which they submitted was very important, the agreement between the parties, the document which contained the clause with reference to the forfeiture of the deposit money. After reading the special case, counsel stated that the question was whether appellant's deposit of \$500 was liable to forfeiture. There was no doubt that the appellant when he tendered on 4th June a portion of the purchase money had saddled it with conditions which the Puisne Judge had decided he had no right to do. Appellant was bound by that ruling, but their Lordships would bear in mind that it was admitted on behalf of the respondents that such a condition was made.

The Chief Justice—The effect would be the same as if the tender had not been made?

Mr. Pollock—Yes. Continuing, he said it had not that effect. It was important as showing that the appellant did not wish to repudiate the contract. As a matter of fact he was too eager and wanted to take over the business some ten days before he had a right to do it. Proceeding, he contended that the only right to forfeit a deposit would arise if the conduct of the party amounted to repudiation of his part of the contract. It could not be said that appellant was in default until after 14th June, assuming that on the 4th June he did something which he ought not to have done. He did not show any intention of repudiation. He was too eager. Having become the highest tender, he was anxious to take the control of the business.

Mr. Slade, for the respondents, contended that the deposit was by way of a guarantee for the performance of the contract. It was not a performance of the contract to tender the right price on the wrong day. The contract was not completed in due time by reason of any default on the part of respondents. It was not completed in time solely by reason of the purchaser who had by his own act disabled himself from being able to do it. The clause in the agreement was not exclusive and if the general rule of law gave no other grounds of forfeiture of the deposit, the vendor could appropriate the deposit under those rules.

Mr. Pollock replied to the points raised by Mr. Slade.

Their Lordships reserved judgment.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN UNFULFILLED AGREEMENT.
Lo Pan-ki and another, residing at 216, Wing Lok Street, sued Chan Peak, trader, for a specific

performance of an agreement to purchase certain property and payment of the balance of the price or such other relief as the Court may deem fit. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. Lane (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, while defendant was not represented.

Mr. Sharp said his Lordship had made an order under which plaintiffs proceeded with that action *ex parte*. The writ was issued on 17th January last and on 23rd February the defendant absconded. In due course plaintiffs, who were father and son, filed their statement of claim in which it was stated that defendant agreed to purchase certain leasehold property for £80,000, subject to the payment of £8,000 by defendant in respect of mortgages previously held, but only £2,000 had been paid.

Plaintiffs were heard in support of their claims, after which, his Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs, in the terms asked, or in the alternative damages to be assessed by enquiry before the Registrar.

Friday, April 27th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

THE PRESS EXONERATED.

An Indian watchman sued a Chinese compositor for £37.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for defendant and admitted the debt. He said that £10 was borrowed in exchange for a promissory note for £37.

His Lordship (referring to the case at the Police Court on Wednesday, when Mauva Singh, an Indian watchman, summoned Messrs. Watson and Co. for wrongful dismissal in consequence of an alleged false newspaper report of his action at the Supreme Court)—I notice that an old friend of mine was at the Police Court the other day, and made some very curious remarks. If I said "I don't want to see him here" once, I said it a dozen times.

Mr. Gardiner (who was present in another case) That was not the denial. It was the statement that the man ought to be dismissed.

His Lordship—I spoke rather stronger than I was re-orted. I told him he ought to be dismissed. I said it twice, and it was reported once. I say it again. I asked once why Watson's did not dismiss him, because he was a useless man. On one occasion I tried to get out of him why he was able to appear in Court so often. It was suggested he was a night watchman, which rather took me back, but it turned out he was not a night watchman.

Mr. Gardiner—No, he was not.

His Lordship—He told me he was. If he was a night watchman he could spend his days as he liked.

Mr. Gardiner—I explained to your Lordship—
His Lordship—Judgment for plaintiff with costs.

CATCHED ASHORE.

In Tong was sued by the Tin Wo Cheung Kee for £63.13.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing, who appeared for plaintiff, said defendant was employed on one of the warships and defendant was not allowed to go on board to serve the writ.

His Lordship—How did you catch him?

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—Oh, he came ashore and we caught him in the street.

Defendant asked his Lordship to allow him to pay in three or four installments.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said he could not accept that.

His Lordship—No, you will never see him again if you let him go now.

Judgment for plaintiff with costs.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

BANK COMPRODOR'S FAILURE.

The public examination of Lau Wai-chun, formerly comprodore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was commenced. Mr. R. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the petitioning creditor, and Mr.

H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for Lau Wai-chun.

Debtor, in reply to Mr. Wakeman, Official Receiver, said he was formerly head comprodore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, a position which he had held for fourteen years. He had no other business. His salary from the bank was £625 per month, in addition to which he received commission.

It was correct that his liabilities amounted to £503,657. About £60,000 of that was money borrowed by him, but as for the rest he stood security jointly with others. Out of the £503,000 odd he only received £60,000. He did not remember when he first commenced borrowing money, but he did so from time to time. From the Yu Fat Fat Bank he borrowed about £10,000 for his own use, and the balance was guarantee. The Wong Fuk firm borrowed the money and he and others stood security. The money, £300,000 odd, was not borrowed by him; he only stood security. He was a sleeping partner in the Wong Fuk firm. The £30,000 odd was due by the firm and not by him alone. The money was borrowed from the Lai Hing Bank. Out of that sum £70,000 was raised on mortgage of certain houses in Lyndhurst Terrace, owned by him and Ma Fa Ting jointly. Of the moneys advanced to the Wong firm the money was sent up to Canton. Ma Fa Ting received all the money. Witness was never a partner in the Lai Hing Bank, and never had any share or interest in it. He knew that Ma Fa Ting had sworn that he was a partner in the Lai Hing Bank because he read the newspapers, but it was not true. Neither had he a firm under the name of Ma Fuk Hong, nor was he a partner in either the Wai Tung firm nor the Wing Sing Loong. He knew Wong Sau Po, who was the manager of the Lai Fung firm; he used to buy goods from him, but if he said he was his partner he said what was not true. When he was comprodore of the Hongkong Bank he bought many bills for large amounts from the Lai Fung, and the Lai Fung got the money from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and the Bank had to collect the money in Penang, Singapore, Rangoon and other places from the Lai Fung's agents. The Lai Hing also sold bills. He did not remember on whose name the bills were drawn. It was a fact that he asked Wong Sau Po to guarantee those bills, but he did not remember exactly. The bills were sold to the Bank under the names of Hong Sing Loong and others. As regarded the money, the Bank paid for these bills; they were all handed over to the Wong Fung Company of Canton, and a lottery company of which he was a partner. It was untrue that he applied for shares in the Lai Fung Bank. He did not keep any account book regarding those moneys. He did not have the money. It all went to Ma Fa Ting and others.

He had no other property than his furniture and his share in the property in Lyndhurst Terrace. He first became aware that he was unable to meet his liabilities in January, February or March of this year. A year ago he was able to meet his liabilities if the debts due to him had been paid, but all the people were hard up. The sum of £50,000 due from the Wong Fung had not been paid, and the guarantor was a rich man in Macao—Loong Chap Chi. He was also one of the partners in the Wong Fung.

Mr. Master then examined the debtor on behalf of the petitioning creditor. In reply to him Lau Wai-chun admitted owing the petitioning creditor the money claimed. By the Viceroy shutting down on the lottery company, bankrupt's difficulties were brought about.

On the application of Mr. Dixon, acting for another creditor, the examination was adjourned for a fortnight.

The German land-owners at Hankow met on April 6th and settled the arrangements for their new municipal Government. Taxes on land, houses, imports and exports, vehicles, launches, etc., were decided on. Land is to contribute one-third per cent.; buildings five per cent. rental value; assessments to be made every December. The budget receipts stood at Tls. 19,680. The following municipal councillors were elected for 1908, Messrs. E. Mirow, H. Schlichting, F. W. Bandow, W. Herensperger, and F. Muller.

POLICE COURT.

Wednesday April 25th.

BEFORE MR. F. A. HAZELAND (FIRST POLICE MAGISTRATE).

THE MORPHINE SHIRES.

The hearing of the claim for the eleven cases of muriate of morphine confiscated to the Opium Farmer was continued.

Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the Opium Farmer. Mr. John Hastings appeared for a claimant who claimed seven cases, and Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Master) for Messrs. McEwen, Frickel and Co., whose claim was for four cases.

His Worship—Are there claims for all the cases forfeited?

Mr. Hastings—Yes, your Worship; I claim seven and Mr. Bailey claims four.

Mr. Bailey—I have also put in a claim for another seven out of a shipment which arrived by another steamer.

Mr. Hastings—I claim some of that shipment as well.

His Worship—I don't think we need go into that at present. It is not before the Court.

Mr. Deacon—First of all, your Worship. I have a preliminary objection to take to my friends' applications. I apprehend that they are asking for a re-hearing of the cases. It is quite true that under section 97 of the Magistrates' Ordinance your Worship has power on such ground as you shall on your discretion deem sufficient to review your adjudication, and upon such review to re-open or re-hear the case, but my friends want an extension of the period in which they can come in and claim this opinion.

His Worship—That is not a technical objection. Do I understand that your point is that they are not entitled to apply for a re-hearing?

Mr. Deacon—Yes

His Worship—You are going into the merits of the case and contend they are not entitled to make their application?

Mr. Deacon—Yes; what I say is that by operation of the principal Ordinance the opium is forfeited. I will go so far as to say that it does not require your Worship's decision that the opium should be forfeited. By operation of the statute it is actually forfeited, and that being so they cannot apply for it, but can apply for a review.

His Worship—Then why did you apply to me for an order?

Mr. Deacon—I might have done it out of an abundance of caution. This is a pure question of law. It may be, or it may not be, that your Worship's order is necessary. I am not submitting that, although I may have asked for it as a matter of caution. As a pure point of law it is unnecessary, as the opium is absolutely forfeited *ipso facto*. It touches my friends' position in this way: all they can ask your Worship to do is to reconsider your decision that the morphine should be forfeited to the Opium Farmer, but that would be useless to my friends if they are not to have a chance of recovering it, which they will not if the point I take is correct in law.

His Worship—I am satisfied that there is power for me to grant a re-hearing, and I propose that in this case the application should be for an order absolute, not an order nisi.

Mr. Hastings—My friend, Mr. Bailey, and I are in exactly the same position in this matter, and with your Worship's permission we propose to hear the two claims together.

His Worship—The applications will be consolidated.

Mr. Hastings said he claimed seven cases of morphine on behalf of the Kwong Wing San firm of Shanghai; he had supplied Mr. Deacon with copies of the marks on the cases. Mr. Bailey said he claimed four cases on behalf of Messrs. McEwen, Frickel & Co. as the transhippers, and the China and Japan Trading Co. of Shanghai, who to the best of his knowledge were the owners.

Mr. Hastings, in stating the facts of his claim, said his client ordered this morphine from England for a European firm in Shanghai, and the documents were in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank there. He intended sending for them as soon as possible. His client sent instructions

to an agent here to land the goods and re-ship them to Shanghai. This sort of business he understood had been carried on for a considerable time, and his client in Shanghai used to pay the bill of exchange to the bank, get the bill of lading and forward it here for his agent to take delivery of the goods and re-ship them to Shanghai. His claim was not put in within the week mentioned by the Ordinance because the owner was in Shanghai and only came down since the seizure was made. As the claimant had no knowledge of his goods being seized he could not have made his claim before, and the man he sent instructions to was unaware that the goods were received.

His Worship—Or that they had arrived?

Mr. Hastings—He was told to expect some, but did not know they had arrived and were seized, one reason being that the notices put up at the Magistracy and the place where the opium was found did not identify the goods by their marks.

His Worship—At any rate your client did not know and could not have known about these goods?

Mr. Hastings—He could not have known, as he was not here. We intend to submit various points to your Worship why in the first place this section under which proceedings are taken does not apply. The first is the point I took the other day: I understand these goods were seized under a warrant.

His Worship—I think not.

Mr. Hastings—if there was no warrant then I will pass on to section 32, which gives power to seize without a warrant. I submit that sections 32 and 39 refer to opium only and not to compounds of opium. With regard to that point I wish to refer very shortly to the judgment your Worship gave the other day. From what your Worship stated in that judgment I am not quite sure that you clearly understood the arguments I addressed to you. For this reason, you stated it as my contention that the Prepared Opium Ordinance did not refer to compounds at all. I did not contend that, for it does as amended undoubtedly refer to compounds of opium. My contention was that these particular sections did not.

His Worship—My decision was that every section referred to compound of opium. It meant that I included sections 32 and 39. I said the whole Ordinance.

Mr. Hastings—It is perfectly clear that it does refer to compounds of opium, because by virtue of the amended Ordinance, No. 10 of 1904, we have got to read in the Prepared Opium Ordinance certain sections referring to compounds of opium, and what I asked your Worship on a former occasion, and ask you again is to read those in as intended, and then to take the Ordinance as a whole. Doing this, my contention is that if the Legislature intended the Ordinance to refer to compounds of opium they would have said so. They might have put a section in the principal Ordinance to say that opium in all cases should include compounds of opium. The Court has no power to add any words to any section of the Ordinance which is not expressed in clear terms. I would refer your Worship to Maxwell on the interpretation of Statutes. The words in the section which I quoted are material to the case, because I submit we must go by the words the Legislature used: the Court is not competent to extend them, even though it were an excellent thing that they were extended. Opium is a well-known article, it is an extract of the juice of the poppy, whereas muriate of morphine is a different article altogether. Opium no doubt is used in its manufacture, and it is, I believe, called an alkaloid of opium: I submit whatever it is that the material does not come within the definition of opium, and therefore it cannot be included under this section which refers to opium only. The second point I shall take is that the order of forfeiture is bad for this reason: the section says that when any opium is found without being apparently in the possession of any person it shall be confiscated. I believe I am right in stating that before this order was made no evidence was given that this opium was not apparently in the possession of any person.

His Worship—That is so.

Mr. Hastings—if that fact is not proved before your Worship the order must be bad. I will go further and say that this opium was in

the possession of a person when it was found; it was in the possession of the godown keeper, so how can it be asserted by the other side that it was apparently not in the possession of any person. Surely it will be conceded that the position of a bailee, which the Godown Co. were, is equivalent to the position of owner. It was perfectly clear that the possession of the Godown Co. was in law the possession of the owner. The section of the Ordinance with regard to possession surely does not refer to goods in the course of business in the custody of the godown keeper. Supposing anybody had tried to take this morphine out of the possession of the Godown Co. except the police under powers of law the company would not have allowed them, they would say we hold for the owner. The notice of the seizure of the goods is bad, because what is the use of putting up the notice without the marks when we have thousands of cases of morphine in the Colony?

His Worship—You contend first that the original arrest was bad on the ground that it was compound of opium.

Mr. Hastings—Yes; the original seizure we say is bad because section 32 does not apply to compounds of opium. I have only one other point, that is with regard to possession. I say that the bills of lading being with the bank the possession was with the bank as mortgagee.

Mr. Bailey—The facts of my case are that on the evening of the 11th April Messrs. McEwen, Frickle and Co. received a telegram from Shanghai informing them that four cases of morphine would arrive by the *Deva Ha* and that the bill of lading would follow. This was after the seizure. Mr. Duncan of the said firm personally attended at the C.S.O. and applied for a permit to tranship this morphine. As far back as December Messrs. McEwen, Frickle & Co. applied for a licence to deal and ship compounds of opium, and received a reply from the Colonial Secretary that the matter was having consideration, and pending a reply permission would be granted.

His Worship—What is McEwen, Frickle's position? Are they agents for the owner?

Mr. Bailey—Yes. The firm had no notice of the seizure, and only learned about it when they went to the godowns. They applied to the Opium Farmer for the release of the goods, but he replied that he could not see his way to release them.

Mr. Bailey then dealt with his points of law, which were similar to Mr. Hastings'. He said that having regard to the firm's licence the seizure was invalid.

His Worship—On that point you might be able to see the Opium Farmer and arrange with him.

As all parties were agreeable, his Worship decided to take both cases together, and adjourned the hearing until Saturday.

COOLIE'S BIG JUMP.

FATAL RESULT OF A GAMBLING RAID.

An inquiry was conducted at Hongkong on the 20th April by Mr. F. A. Hazelton into the circumstances of the death of Ng Taun, who succumbed to injuries received on 4th April by attempting to escape during a gambling raid by the police on the house at 27, Queen's Road East by jumping from the parapet into the back-yard. The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. A. Moulder, A. A. H. Milroy and L. Desjardins.

A ricksha coolie, residing at 27, Queen's Road East, stated that on the night in question the inmates were gambling when the police made a raid on the premises. The people scattered and some attempted to escape by the verandah, but were stopped by the police. The deceased, who was a ricksha coolie and was about 25 years of age, was one of the gamblers. Witness saw him run into the cook-house and when he went downstairs he found deceased lying on the ground. He did not see him fall.

Ng Ok, hawker, who had been present on the occasion in question, said he heard someone call out that the police were coming. He ran because he saw somebody else running. He went into the kitchen and seeing someone jump down he jumped into the backyard also.

His Worship—Did you hurt yourself?—sprained my foot.

His Worship—I may explain to you, gentlemen, that the distance he jumped was 49 feet.

P. S. Lee said that when he entered the room the Chinese were panic-stricken, and one of the constables reported that in attempting to escape a man had fallen down the air shaft. Proceeding to the bottom, he discovered the deceased, shockingly injured, and at once sent for the ambulance and for medical assistance. On the 8th instant he attended at the mortuary and identified the body. Witness had charge of the execution of about 20 similar warrants in that district, and it was the practice before leaving the Police Station to give the constables instructions to guard the doors and windows with the object of preventing the gamblers from injuring themselves.

After hearing other police and medical evidence, the jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

April 18th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY FUNDS.

On the 14th instant the Chamber of Commerce here received a telegram from the Cantonese merchants at Shanghai stating that a sum of over \$2,000,000 had been subscribed in Shanghai and that they had collected the first instalment of \$400,000, or 20 per cent, of the amount subscribed. They state that they will send the money down as soon as an Imperial edict sanctioning the control of the railway by the merchants shall be published. They suggest that Tong Shiu-yu, alias Tong shiu-chen, who was lately sent to India as special envoy, shall be elected to the post of chief director of the railway, as a high official must be elected for that post.

Up to the 8th inst., \$2,216,484, representing 20 per cent. of the amount subscribed in Kwangtung, has been collected.

THE "POLICE COURT CLOCK" AGAIN.

The watchman of the Nam-Hoi Magistracy has been lately in the habit of falling asleep during duty hours and many articles have been found missing. On the 11th instant the mosquito net from the Magistrate's bed disappeared. The watchman was summoned to appear before the Nam-Hoi, who severely reprimanded him for his carelessness and told him that should anything more disappear in the future he will be severely dealt with.

April 21st.

THE RAILWAY ENQUIRY.

It is reported that Taotai Yuen Shi-fan, who was sent here to investigate the railway trouble between the Viceroy and the gentry and merchants, has decided to leave here to-day. He will proceed directly to see Viceroy Chow Fuh, to whom he will hand a report of the result of his investigations, after which he will proceed to take up his new post at Shun-Tin.

CHINESE WARNED TO AVOID PANAMA.

The Chamber of Commerce here has received a letter from abroad advising the Board not to encourage emigration to Panama, where coolies are wanted for the canal works. The letter states that the climate is very bad and the heat excessive, and that Chinese labourers would not be able to withstand the conditions of living in that country and would soon fall ill and die.

RECKLESS OF SH COINAGE.

Millions of one cash coins have been coined at the Mint here. A few days ago these coins were sent to the Sin-Hau-Kuk. This Board wishes to give to these coins the value of eight mace per thousand in order to cover the loss incurred through the depreciation of the ten cash coins which are not in demand at present, and whose value drops every day.

STORMS AND DAMAGE.

Houses have collapsed, and lives been lost, during the recent bad weather.

FIFTY PLAGUE CASES A DAY.

Plague is as ripe as ever, and with the kind of weather prevailing is likely to increase. The coffin shops are all very busy, as the epidemic is said to claim about fifty to sixty victims daily. In some of the affected streets almost every home was visited by this terrible scourge.

CHINESE TRADE ORGAN.

The Chamber of Commerce here has received a despatch from the Peking Board of Commerce advising them that the Government is about to publish a commercial paper and requests the support of the Chamber. Copies of the conditions and regulations were also received.

RICE PROSPECTS BAD.

Every year, somewhere between the fourth and fifth Moons, Fa-shan is more or less flooded. The heavy rains that have fallen recently have caused the floods to appear earlier, and the creek has risen to such an extent that there are several feet of water in the streets neighbouring the creek. The rice fields also are mostly under water and causing serious inconvenience to the farmers, who are unable to transplant the young rice shoots. It is feared that the first crop will be a failure this year.

April 23rd.

CHINESE AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Minister Leung Shing has sent a wire to Viceroy Shum informing him of the terrible earthquake disaster at San Francisco. Upon receipt of the message, His Excellency immediately ordered the Provincial Treasurer to ask the nine leading charitable institutions to raise a subscription fund for the relief of the Chinese sufferers in San Francisco.

CHINESE CONSUL FOR ANNAM.

It is reported that Viceroy Shum and the Kwangsi Governor have jointly memorialized the Throne recommending that a Chinese Consul should be appointed in Annam, and request the Waiwupu to discuss the matter with the French Minister in Peking.

HONGKONG WATER AUTHORITY INTERVENING?
In order to obtain the cessation of the rain an altar has been erected outside the Shing Wang Temple, and the Prefect, the Nam-Hoi and Poon-Yu magistrates are going there to pray the gods to stop flooding the country.

RAILWAY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It is reported that the amount collected on the first installment of shares subscribed for the Canton-Hankow railway now amounts to \$2,364,562.

HONAM FLOODED.

Owing to the heavy rains the river has risen considerably and the neighbouring fields are all under water. At high-tide there is nearly a foot of water in Honam, along the streets that run parallel to the river front.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MACAO POST OFFICE.

A WELCOME CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Macao, April 23rd, 1906.

SIR,—According to the article which appeared in your issue of 20th instant, that the Macao Government had decided to open all letters in which there is a suspicion of containing banknotes, I have the honour to inform you that no such order has been received from our Government in this office, and no such thing has ever happened.

I shall therefore feel much obliged if you will kindly insert this letter in your widely read paper, for which I beg to thank you in anticipation.—I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

LUIZ A. LOPES DOS REMEDIOS,
Postmaster.

[The article referred to was a mere paragraph mentioning the rumour, and was couched in sceptical terms. The rumour was causing too much concern amongst Portuguese residents to be ignored.—ED.]

At the examination in Practical Sanitary Science, and for Inspectors of Nuisances, on April 18th and 20th, the following candidates were successful:—Practical Sanitary Science—Hubert John William Gidley, Henry Edward Goldsmith, Arthur Robert Fenton Rawlinson, Inspectors of Nuisances—Daniel Joseph O'Halloran. Examiners:—Hon. W. Chatham, Hon. Mr. Clark, Hon. H. E. Pollock, Dr. W. W. Pearce, Mr. A. H. Ough, Capt. Shinkwin, A.S.C., and Mr. Alfred Carter (moderator).

BELILIOS MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY.

PRESENTED TO MR. A. H. BROWN.

An interesting ceremony took place on board the s.s. *Wingchai* on the 23rd April when Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence presented Mr. A. H. Brown, chief officer of that vessel, with the Belilios medal for gallantry. Among those present were Hon. Captain Barnes-Lawrence, Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Belilios, Rev. Mr. Pearce, Mr. J. Dyer Ball, Captain Ramsay, Captain Austin and Mr. C. E. Warren.

Rev. Mr. PEARCE first introduced Mr. Brown to Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, after which he stated that the company had gathered to recognise the Chief Officer's intrepidity in life-saving. That they were able to be present was due to the creation of a fund in part for life-saving and in part for the promotion of education in the Colony. That fund was created by a former resident of Hongkong, the late Hon. Mr. E. R. Belilios. He thought it seemly and fitting, seeing that this was the first occasion since the lamented death of Mr. Belilios, that they, the trustees of this fund, had had an opportunity of mentioning the fact in public that they should pay a passing tribute to the memory of Mr. Belilios. His career as a citizen and patriot was marked by earnest public spirit; his gifts to Heng ong, especially for the promotion of education, were for the most part as timely as they were munificent, and so far as the speaker knew Mr. Belilios he kept steadily in view the promotion of the well-being and the interests of the Colony which had so long been his cherished home. He spoke with a certain restraint because he spoke in the presence of a son of Mr. Belilios, whom they were delighted to welcome among them. He was sure that what he had said concerning the late Mr. Belilios on the first time he had had occasion to mention him since his death would be regarded as not out of place. If it was generous on the part of Mr. Belilios to create this fund, it was certainly highly honourable for anyone to merit—as Mr. Brown merited—the application of the fund, or the part of it devoted to life-saving. In order that a larger public might know what they, the trustees, knew concerning the heroic act of Mr. Brown, the act they were present specially to acknowledge, he would place before them a few particulars obtained through inquiry very kindly made by the Hon. Captain Barnes-Lawrence and the harbour authorities. On the 24th of January this year the *Wingchai* left this port on her usual run to Macao. She had not proceeded far when she encountered a north-easterly gale, he was told a gale of quite unusual and extraordinary violence. Some of the facts of that gale were all too sadly in evidence, and the facts of the gale in evidence from the deck of the *Wingchai* was an upturned fishing boat, and near to that a bit of wreckage to which two men were clinging. To lower a boat was out of the question owing to the violence of the seas, but by skilful handling the ship was steered as near as possible to the bit of wreckage—near enough to render it possible to throw a lifebuoy to the two men who were clinging to it. One of the men seized it, but the other was too exhausted to reach out to the help that was thrown to him from the ship's deck. Seeing the condition of this man, who was the speaker believed, in the act of disappearing for the last time, the first officer, Mr. Brown, promptly jumped overboard into that rough sea and caught the man as he was in the act of sinking, and there was no doubt whatever that through that act of intrepidity and heroism the man's life was saved (cheers). Such was the act they were present to honour. It was a plucky thing to do, and when a man had played the man as Mr. Brown had, his best reward was the consciousness of having done his duty in the face of the gravest peril and having rescued another life from destruction: he surely would carry the memory of that day when he jumped from the ship's deck into the sea to rescue a man who, but for his brave act, would certainly have perished. Before asking Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence to present the Belilios medal and the certificate, the speaker said he would like to emphasise one point. The

man in the water about to sink was a Chinese, Mr. Brown was a non-Chinese. He was quite sure his Chinese friends present would not misunderstand what he was going to say when he mentioned the fact that Mr. Brown jumped overboard to rescue a Chinese from drowning. Next time there might be Chinese on the deck and a non-Chinese struggling in the water or clinging to a piece of wreckage. If such were the case he hoped that what Mr. Brown had done would inspire the Chinese to do likewise. Chinese could do for non-Chinese what a non-Chinese had in this instance done for a Chinaman. In China the Chinese were afraid to rescue a drowning man, but in Hongkong that kind of superstition had been done away with. Records of the Belilios trust showed that Chinese were not lacking in heroism and intrepidity, and in the speaker's opinion they would rise to an occasion like that of Mr. Brown's. He hoped that what that gentleman did would prove the means of inspiring others should a similar occasion arise, and that should opportunity be afforded any present, they would have the pluck to do what Mr. Brown did on the 24th January (applause).

Mrs. BARNES-LAWRENCE then presented the medal and address. She said, addressing the recipient, that she felt greatly honoured in being asked to do so, as he so nobly deserved them.

Rev. Mr. PEARCE said they also felt that some recognition should be taken of the sailors' conduct. He was told that some of them stood on the side of the ship and did a great deal to help in the rescue. Through Captain Austin they wished to present the sailors with a cheque.

Mrs. BARNES-LAWRENCE then handed the cheque to the Captain, who said he would see that the wish of the trustees was carried out.

Mr. BELILIOS said the pleasant duty left him to perform was to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence for attending to present the medal. He wished to reiterate what Mr. Pearce said, seeing the amount of good that could be done by an action of the kind between a European and a Chinaman. If Chinese joined in attempts to save life, we should then arrive nearer that happy stage which Britishers are striving for in China, the well-being of the two races. There was an idea among Chinese that to save a man from drowning was unlucky, but he was sure that Hongkong, as they knew it today, had developed to that extent where superstition of the kind could not possibly exist. He remembered a Chinese policeman saving a life and being awarded with a medal such as Mr. Brown was receiving, and he thought it was questioned by Chinese at the time whether the Lukong would not suffer for so doing, because he was considered to be acting against Providence. So far as he knew that Lukong had not suffered. The sooner such an idea was dispelled, the more frequent would be acts of this kind. Mr. Brown, from what he had heard from the Captain of the circumstances, certainly had a difficult task to perform; there was a high sea running and what he did most men would have thought twice of before attempting. He asked all to join him in thanking Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence for attending to present the medal.

CAPT. AUSTIN returned thanks on behalf of Mr. Brown and the sailors. He said he was glad to have Mr. Brown with him as first officer, as there were two of them on board who had medals for life-saving, he being awarded a gold medal for saving a life in the Bay of Biscay.

Hon. Captain BARNES-LAWRENCE, on behalf of his wife, returned thanks for the kind manner in which Mr. Belilios had referred to her, and said she was gratified with the pleasing part she had been asked to take in the afternoon's proceedings. They owed a debt of gratitude to the trustees of the Belilios fund for being invited to be present at so interesting a ceremony. When he boarded the *Wingchai* he could not help considering the difference between the 24th January and the present, but they had only to recall Mr. Pearce's narrative of the rescue to know what it was like on her at that time. When the facts of the case were first brought to his notice he experienced that pride of freemasonry which was so generally observed

among nautical men when one or other of the profession distinguished themselves. On the other hand, he was quite convinced during the years of sea service he had had, that all sorts of brave acts were constantly taking place by those who had the honour to belong to that grand service—the British Mercantile Marine. The speaker dwelt on the necessity of having a good man at a ship's helm, and said that the present rescue was made possible by Captain Austin who was then at the helm. It was exceedingly gratifying to learn that the Chinese sailors on board took a share in the work of rescue, and he should like them to learn that in the admiration of those present for gallantry displayed on that occasion, their association with it was not forgotten. The speaker concluded by calling upon all present to express their appreciation of the officers and men to whom he alluded by giving a hearty British cheer.

Three lusty cheers followed, after which the gathering, at the invitation of Captain Austin, remained to partake of light refreshments.

ABOLITION OF TORTURE IN CHINA.

A meeting of the Hongkong Committee pledged to work for the abolition of judicial torture in China was held on April 24 at the office of the Italian Consul General. Com. Volpicelli gave a sketch of the work during last year, and after a brief discussion measures were approved for the continuance of the work. The report is as follows:—

The movement we started for the abolition of judicial torture in China very little more than a year ago, for our first meeting was held under the auspices of H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi on the 12th December, 1904, has made such rapid and successful progress that a hasty glance at the work done and the objects still to be attained becomes necessary. In our first meeting I had communicated that I was busy in translating a pamphlet from the Italian into Chinese which I thought would greatly aid our cause, and during December, 1904, several copies of the translation were written out for the different Chinese newspapers published in Hongkong and Canton. As there were some misgivings about the impression our anti-torture propaganda might create amongst the high official class, and there existed the consequent fear that hasty and unguarded zeal might retard rather than hasten the reform we all had at heart, in the beginning of January, 1905, I cleared up the question by writing on the 8th to Taotai Wen, and he answered on the 9th January, repeating in writing what he had already told me verbally more than a month before, that the idea would meet with great favour. I think it is worth while to quote in extenso a phrase from the letter, as it stands out very forcibly now in the light of later events:—“To publish the translation both in the leading Chinese newspapers and in pamphlet form so that it may be widely read I have already told you, is an excellent idea, and the publication will surely be hailed with great delight by the Chinese people and their officials.” Now we see Mr. Wen's predictions entirely realised. The translation of the XII. Chapter of Beccaria (the one against torture) was published in the principal Chinese newspapers of Hongkong and Canton about the middle of January, 1905, and it certainly produced some impression [Mr. T. Edwards, of Canton, well known for his knowledge of Chinese, kindly lent his assistance in securing its publication in Canton], as I received letters from different parts of China from unknown persons encouraging our work. Unfortunately my health was not very strong about this time and I could not push on the printing of the pamphlet. I was able, however, to see during my illness my old friend, von Rosthorn, the Austrian Minister, who promised me his assistance and also told me that the method pursued, of a popular propaganda through the press, was the most likely to lead to success. As soon as I was able I had the blocks cut for printing in pamphlet form the translation which had already appeared in the Chinese newspapers. These blocks correspond to a stereotype edition with us, so now that I have the blocks I can until they are worn out print off as many copies as I like. In April

1905, an Imperial Edict was published abolishing the punishment of “ling-ch'ih” in China. This seemed a good sign, and as soon as the copies were ready I sent 20 to my Minister and 20 to my personal friend, the Austrian Minister. I received very favourable answers: the copies of the pamphlet would be presented to the highest officials in Peking, and the Austrian Minister (a man of long experience in this country) informed me that the ideas of Beccaria would fall on fertile soil, as was evident by the late Imperial Edict about “ling-ch'ih”. Having left the work in the metropolis to the two friendly Ministers, I had to push the propaganda in the provinces of the vast Chinese Empire. I was compelled to limit the propaganda to the highest provincial officials, to Viceroy, Governors, Provincial Treasurers, Provincial Judges, and Tartar Generals in the provinces where there are garrisons of Banner troops. Even with these limitations there was considerable clerical work, as a printed circular would have been against etiquette, and the letters accompanying the pamphlets had to contain the proper complimentary phrases. In about a couple of months a hundred copies were thus distributed and since then answers have been slowly coming in acknowledging receipt of the pamphlet. Of course, all express thanks and appreciation of our work, but this might be only common politeness; several, however, enter into the question, either referring to the juridical glories of ancient Rome or to the late reforming legislation of China, showing that the writers have drafted or dictated the letters and not simply given their secretaries a general order for a polite answer. This is highly gratifying, and shows that we have achieved some measure of success in the most important part of our task—rousing men's minds to a consideration of the problem—for when that is obtained there is but one solution, and that comes with extraordinary rapidity, everyone astonished that such an abuse could have been so long tolerated. On the 15th June we sent a letter to Wu Ting-fang, expressing our appreciation of the work he had accomplished in reforming the criminal laws of China abolishing the barbarous punishment of “ling-ch'ih”, and on the 15th August he answered, thanking us, recognising that we had started the movement against torture and hoping we might have good success. He also informed us that he had obtained an Imperial Edict abolishing all torture during criminal trials, with the exception of trials for murder. Wu Ting-fang added that he naturally was in favour of abolishing the use of torture in all cases, but had compromised in order to secure success for a partial measure which would infallibly in a short time lead to the complete abolition. This announcement was important, because there was reasonable room for doubt in the confusing reports that were current, about that time. I may instance the carefully sifted information that came to my knowledge from high quarters: a well-informed foreigner in Peking assured me that torture had been completely abolished, and offered his congratulations for our signal and rapid success; on the other hand, one of the high Chinese provincial officials, in the answer acknowledging receipt of the pamphlet containing the translation of Beccaria, communicated the promulgation of an Imperial Edict, and explained its enactments as follows:—“Except in capital cases where evidence is clear and the accused recalcitrant in all other cases torture shall not be employed in the first examination, nor in cases where the penalty is inferior to banishment”. There was here a wide discrepancy, because on the one hand capital cases (where torture was almost unconditionally allowed) are very numerous, as the Chinese Penal Code sanctions the penalty of death for many crimes, though it is very rarely carried out, even for the worst ones; and on the other hand the crimes for which a punishment inferior to banishment is sanctioned (those in which on no account is torture allowed) are very light crimes. The answer from H.E. Wu Ting-fang gave an explanation which lay between these two extremes, and seemed to show that an important step had been made. Resuming, therefore, the results of about a year's work, we find important legislative measures taken by the Imperial Government of China, first in abolishing a repulsive form of capital punishment—ling-ch'ih—and then an important

step towards the complete abolition of torture by limiting its use. What I think still more important is the awakening of men's minds to a consideration of the question. As Beccaria justly said, torture rested on the tyranny of custom which blinds men to the clearest evidence. Now that, as we see by the answers of the highest officials, the attention of the ruling class in China is directed towards the question of judicial torture there cannot be the slightest doubt about the final result, though of course there is room for legitimate doubt about the rate of progress. Our future task lies in trying to hasten legislative reform and to devise measures for rendering effective the reforms enacted. As for further legislation, abolishing torture completely, it will be comparatively easy, as Wu Ting-fang has already declared his views on the subject, and because there will be no logical ground for opposition, now that torture has been abolished in many cases by Imperial Edict. It will be far more difficult to render even the partial reforms effective in practice, than to obtain the most extensive legislation. What I have heard, even from friendly Chinese officials, would lead me to believe that torture is still employed, though probably less frequently than hitherto. I think this is due principally to a practical difficulty and does not affect the essential question. Chinese officials, especially in large places, are very busy, as they are supposed to manage and direct a variety of work allotted in the West to several special officials so that in a populous district the official has not much time to give to the administration of justice, and has to hurry the work. The worst enemies of torture will not deny that it is a speedy method of getting an answer, whether affirmative or negative, false or true; therefore, the sudden abolition of torture, without some corresponding extension in the number of officials who administer justice, cannot be effective, and the best intentioned officials will often be compelled to resume the cruel, stupid, but expeditious practice of torture. I think, therefore, that the practical abolition of judicial torture depends entirely on some measure to relieve the present officials from their judicial duties, which instead should devolve on a special class appointed for the purpose, and whose independence from all political or other pressure should be properly guaranteed, as in all the countries of Europe. I also think that H. E. Wu Ting-fang, who is all the time busy revising the Chinese Codes and is drawing precedents for his reforms from the legislations of the West, will receive this idea favourably, and I propose that another letter should be written to him calling his attention to the practical difficulties met with in the sudden abolition of torture and suggesting the practical remedy above mentioned.

After the hearing of this report there was some discussion, in which the Lord Bishop of Victoria, Sir Henry Berkeley and Rev. Father De Maria (Pro-Vicar Apostolic) took a prominent part, and it was finally decided that Mr. Volpicelli should write the letter he had suggested, adding also that in the opinion of the committee, the great obstacle to the abolition of torture was the principle of Chinese jurisprudence that a man could not be condemned without his confession (a principle existing also in Europe when torture was used), and that if the principle that evidence and witnesses were sufficient to convict a man were adopted torture would no longer be required.

With this resolution the meeting adjourned.

SAN FRANCISCO CATASTROPHE.

SYMPATHY FROM HONGKONG.

We have received the following from the Colonial Secretary:—Telegram from Governor Hongkong, to President, U.S.A., dated 29th April, 1906:—

“Colony of Hongkong which has many relations with California expresses to you deep sorrow at San Francisco catastrophe and heartfelt sympathy with sufferers.”

Reply from U.S.A. dated 24th April, 1906:—

The President directs me to thank you sincerely for your sympathetic message which he highly appreciates.

Eluru Root,
Secretary of State.

[April 30, 1906]

SHANGHAI'S "LAST CHIEF JUSTICE."

UNVEILING CEREMONY AT THE SUPREME COURT.

At noon on April 20 the severe "official presence" of His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court for once was lacking, and the privileged persons present were the spectators of an unusual scene. The table which is usually heavily laden with legal works, authorities, and documents was the resting place of champagne glasses and light refreshments, the green baize being partially covered with white linen cloths. On the walls were hung portraits of the gentlemen who have presided over the Court as Chief Justice—Sir Edmund Hornby (1865-1976), George French, Esq. (1877-1881), Sir Richard Rennie (1882-1891), Sir Nicholas Hannen (1891-1900), and, covered with a red curtain, a portrait of Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, Chief Justice from 1900 to 1905.

The occasion was the unveiling of the portrait of Sir Hiram, which has been presented to the Court by the members of the local Bar. Hitherto the portraits of former Chief Justices of H. M.'s Court in China and Corea have been hung in the Judges' room, but a little while since the officers of the Court decided that the public should have the benefit of seeing these pictures of judicial dignitaries, and so they were removed to the Court house appropriately at the same time that an addition was to be made to them.

There was quite a large gathering including the Assistant Judge (F. S. A. Bourne, Esq.) the Crown Advocate (H. P. Wilkinson, Esq.), members of the Bar, officers of the Court, and several invited Presidents. The Registrar (J. C. E. Douglas, Esq.) said—Gentlemen,—We are here to-day for two purposes. One is to unveil the portrait of the late Chief Justice, Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, and the second to drink his health with his son. I propose that Mr. Bourne take the chair.

The Assistant Judge said—Gentlemen,—Please consider that I am in the chair. It would be very wrong if Sir Hiram Wilkinson, who was Chief Justice here until recently, and who worked so long and so hard in this place, should be forgotten. He will not be forgotten easily by us, but time passes and as time passes one's memory does not become clearer, and I think it is well, and I am sure you will all agree with me, that we should have an effigy to remind us of him here. Although his body is in Ireland I am quite certain that his thoughts are very often in Shanghai, and that as he enjoys his well-earned repose in Ireland it will be a pleasure to him to know that his portrait is here in this Court as his mind travels over the ground he so often covered here. I think we cannot do better, and I think you will all wish that Mr. Wilkinson, the Crown Advocate, his son, should unveil his portrait, and I will ask him to do so now, and when that is done we will drink "Long life and happiness to Sir Hiram Wilkinson" (applause).

The Crown Advocate, having unveiled the portrait of his father, which is hung on the wall on the presiding Judge's right, said—Mr. Bourne, Mr. Douglas, fellow lawyers, gentlemen of the fourth estate, and all my friends. Gentlemen,—On behalf of my father I thank you heartily. There is nothing of which he will be more proud than of having his portrait hung in this Court where, as Mr. Bourne has said, he worked so hard, I am sure. His face in the portrait is rather severe, but I am sure that those from whom he demanded most particulars will not think it is a stern face, yet there is a look of business on it, which of course I have not experienced; I have not had to appear before my father (laughter). On behalf of my father, the last Chief Justice, no, not, I hope, the last, I thank you, Mr. Bourne, and my friends of the Bar. It will be a pleasing memory to my father to think that you have this portrait of him in this Court. I thank you, Mr. Bourne, and officers of the Court heartily.

Before the company dispersed they drank to the memory of Sir Edmund Hornby, George French, Esq., Sir Richard Rennie, and Sir Nicholas Hannen.

At the base of the portrait of Sir Hiram is a silver plate on which is inscribed:—"Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, Kt, Chief Justice of H. B. M.'s Supreme Court for C. and C. 1900 to 1905."—N.C. Daily News.

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT WILLIAM LITTLE.

DIED 20TH APRIL, 1906.

This is taken from the N.C. Daily News of April 21:—

We do not need to ask the sympathy of our readers this morning in the loss—the irreparable loss—which the words above written mean for us. Our sorrow is Shanghai's. It is not for us who have lived with Mr. Little, who have worked under him, who have looked to him for unfailing leadership, to praise him. As our chief we honoured him, as our friend we deplore him. Everyone knew him. To half Shanghai he was invariably "Uncle Bob"; and to know him was to love him.

A son of the late Dr. W. J. Little, late senior physician of the London Hospital, Robert Little proceeded from S. Paul's School to Oriel College, Oxford, where he graduated. He came out to Shanghai rather more than forty years ago, making the tedious voyage round the Cape before the days of steamers or Suez Canal. He was engaged for some years in different branches of commerce, as a tea merchant and as secretary to the Shanghai Electrical Company, among other things, until he joined the staff of the *North-China Herald* first as Sub-Editor, and succeeding Mr. J. W. Maclellan as Editor, some years later, in March 1889. His fellow journalists showed their appreciation of his worth by electing him one of the few Fellows of the Institute of Journalists outside the home country. Before undertaking newspaper work Mr. Little had already taken the keenest interest in public affairs and from 1879 to 1881 was Chairman of the Municipal Council. A polished scholarly writer, he was also a fluent public speaker, with the rare gift of saying the right thing at the right time in the right way.

There was no keener sportsman in his day. Mr. Little was an original member of the Hook and Ladder Fire Company, now the Mihloongs; he rode with the Shanghai Rangers, the dashing predecessors of our present Light Horse, and was a member of the Reserve Company of Volunteers till quite recently. As an oarsman he was captain and also secretary of the Shanghai Rowing Club. He knew the river intimately and nothing in the way of watercraft came amiss to him. In matters theatrical he took always the keenest interest and he was long one of Shanghai's most popular amateur entertainers.

The ending of so full a life leaves a gap in our community which will not be easily filled. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his nearest relatives, full of years and honour, and his memory will long be cherished in the city to which he gave so much.

The funeral will take place at the Bubbling Well Cemetery on Sunday at 5 p.m.; it is in accordance with his own often expressed wish that friends are asked not to send flowers.

THE NANCHANG AFFAIR.

The N.C. Daily News publishes a three column report of the examination of the wounds of the Chinese Magistrate Chiang, by Dr. C. H. Dawe, of H.M.S. *Snipe*. The report shows how carefully and painstakingly the conclusion was reached that the wounds were, as now admitted, self-inflicted; but we have space only for a very brief extract showing the attitude of the Chinese officials.

"At this interview, having made a complete rough copy of report from the notes obtained the day before at the examination of the wound, I intimated to the Judge—Yü—that I would like to confirm my written report by another short examination of the body.

He objected to this on behalf of the relatives, but soon after stated that if the balance of my evidence was in favour of murder, that he would be able to persuade the relatives to permit another examination."

We are responsible for the italics. Elsewhere we print a Decree dealing with the mendacious Chinese Governor. The case of a missionary correspondent of a contemporary, who wrote that Chiang had no reason to commit suicide, and that all circumstances pointed to murder, cannot, unfortunately, be so dealt with. We hope, faintly, that his own conscience will renew its activity.

FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

CONTINUED EXCESS OF IMPORTS.

There appears to be no end to the excess of imports over exports, writes the *Oriental Economist*. In January the excess amounted to Y9,240,000, Y5,540,000 in February, and Y3,000,000 to the middle of March. This state of affairs is inevitable so long as the Government continues its loan policy, which causes the expansion of currency and the rise in the price of commodities. The general trend of foreign trade since the beginning of last year may be seen from the following figures:—

	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.
Jan. ...	Y23,766,577	Y38,261,845
Feb. ...	24,631,473	40,023,554
March ...	23,632,112	52,856,035
April ...	24,402,036	50,453,063
May ...	22,954,688	57,133,585
June ...	23,381,094	48,234,779
July ...	24,287,982	35,809,142
Aug. ...	27,890,574	34,589,150
Sept. ...	29,532,468	36,526,517
Oct. ...	29,218,431	29,267,639
Nov. ...	31,298,275	32,212,649
Dec. ...	36,537,927	33,870,059
	Y321,533,615	Y488,538,017

	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.
Jan. ...	24,988,183	34,223,319
Feb. ...	26,536,048	32,077,833

	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.
Same period 1905	48,388,045	78,225,389
Same period 1904	48,078,168	58,634,944

As shown above, the large amount of imports that continued up to June last was mainly brought about by the purchase of military supplies, together with the expansion of currency and the consequent rise in general prices. With the stoppage of the importation of military supplies the total imports naturally fell off, but since November they have again begun to rise, and at present there is no indication of the tide turning. This result has no doubt been caused by the high prices prevailing in the market. On examining the principal articles of import it will be observed that there is a considerable falling-off in wool, leather, and other articles for military use, while the importation of muslin, shirtings, woollen cloths, etc., has made a marked increase.

Turning to exports it will be seen that many articles have been adversely affected owing to the increase in the cost of production. It was only in November and December that exports totalling over 30 million yen were recorded. The total amount of exports for the first two months of this year reached the large sum of 514 million yen, but this was owing to the large sales of raw silk brought over from last year. A variable increase is noticeable in copper, rice, cotton fabrics, porcelains, etc., while a large decrease has taken place in cotton yarn, silk fabrics, straw braid, matting, etc. Cotton yarn shows a decrease for the first two months of this year, as compared with the corresponding period of 1905, amounting to Y3,690,000.

The future trade outlook is by no means reassuring, continues the Tokyo periodical. The Government will before long carry out the redemption of the fourth and fifth domestic war bonds, and though a greater part of these issues are held by foreigners, from 70 to 80 million yen worth of bonds are in the hands of Japanese. That amount will consequently go to swell the currency already in circulation, while an increased issue of convertible notes, of no small amount, will be found necessary for payment of the new domestic loan. These events all tend towards further increasing prices, and to the continued excess of imports over exports.

COMPANIES.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

The thirty-third ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Society was held at the Society's offices on the 28th April. Mr. H. W. Slade presided, and there were also present—Messrs. A. G. Wood, N. A. Siebs, A. Forbes, G. H. Medhurst (directors), W. J. Saunders (secretary), and C. M. G. Burnie, B. D. Murray, H. J. M. Carmichael, C. A. Cruz, J. B. H. Whittall, H. M. Nemazee, W. H. Carmichael, J. A. Jupp, H. M. Tibbey, W. Melchers, F. P. Hett and Captain H. W. Hogg.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, and

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission I will take the report as read. To begin with, I would like to explain in as few words as possible the Board's reasons for holding the annual meeting now instead of next October. In the past we have at each annual meeting in October presented accounts to the 30th June and have closed the working account of the preceding year and divided up the profits. In order to render this possible we had a system of estimating the proportionate amount of premium on all unexpired policies still outstanding on the old year's account and transferring both premium and liabilities on these unexpired portions of policies to the new year. As you may imagine, this was rather an arduous task and any very great accuracy was hardly to be aimed at. We have long been seeking an opportunity for amending this system, and, now that under our bargain with the China Traders' shareholders we have to provide exact figures up to the end of the year 1905, we find it necessary to abolish the system altogether and allow all claims on 1905 policies to fall on the 1905 working account. Under these circumstances we cannot form any proper estimate of the 1905 profits until we have all the accounts in up to the end of 1906 and this means an annual meeting not earlier than April 1907, to deal with the profits. Considering that the main part of your dividend comes out of interest on your Reserve Funds we thought it unreasonable to ask you to wait until April, 1907, for the whole of your dividend, and therefore we have called you together now to receive the accounts up to the end of 1905 and to pass an interim dividend out of 1905 interest. We propose next April to pay a final dividend for the year 1905 and an interim dividend for the year 1906, and to continue this system in future years. We now come to the 1905 working account. The figures published, we think, are very satisfactory, but we cannot of course forecast what the ultimate profit will be as the risks have not yet run off. The interest account amounts to nearly \$37 per share, but of this at least \$7 per share must be counted as interest on the premium in hand for the year 1905 and ought not to be anticipated as a profit at this stage. The Board therefore recommends an interim dividend of \$30 per share. This with the usual bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors will absorb some \$575,000 and leave \$2,200,000 to be carried forward to be dealt with next April. Most of it will of course go to pay losses and claims, but we hope to have a fair balance left. As regards the balance sheet, the figures speak for themselves, and I would merely point out that the rate of exchange for sterling being 2s. 3d., instead of 1s. 10½d. as in our last balance sheet, some of the items naturally show a reduction in dollars. Our Furniture and Office Leases have been valued for the purpose of getting at the final intrinsic value of our shares later on, and a new asset appears under this heading of \$30,169.53. To this must be added the value of our London Office Leases, written advices of which have not yet reached us. The next point dealt with in the report is the new issue of shares. There are 24,000 China Traders' shares and we are issuing one new share in the Society in exchange for each ten of them, as well as a cash certificate for the balance of intrinsic value. Up to the present date 19,702 China Traders' shares have come in for exchange. Besides this the holders of 1,457 further shares have accepted our offer but have not yet completed delivery of their

documents; 36 shareholders holding 2,086 shares have not replied and 31 shareholders holding 727 shares have elected to retain their China Traders' shares. As many of those who have not replied are executors of deceased estates who have not yet obtained proper powers and there are others who owing to change of address have only recently received our circulars, the Board has decided to keep the Society's offer open until the end of the year to give them all a further chance. By that time we shall be able to know how many new shares are left on our hands and to decide how they are to be disposed of. I have nothing more to say except that our scheme for joining forces with the China Traders' Insurance Company has now been successfully completed and the objects aimed at may be considered as secured. The goodwill has been retained, the charges have been reduced, the Society has secured an excellent investment, and the China Traders' shareholders will not, we hope, regret the change. At the same time I should not like this opportunity to go by without expressing the very high appreciation which your board has of the admirable way in which this difficult work has been carried out from start to finish, first by your acting secretary, Mr. Ede, and then by your secretary, Mr. Saunders, since he took over charge again upon his return from home. I think you will agree with me that nothing else is required to prove the tact and ability of Mr. Saunders, by whom the details were worked out, than the fact that the new working arrangements have been completed practically without a hitch and almost entirely in accordance with the scheme as originally proposed. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to know if anyone has any questions to ask.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. JUPP—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts with which, I am sure, we have every reason to be satisfied.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. H. CARMICHAEL proposed and Captain Hogg seconded, the re-election of Messrs. A. Forbes and H. W. Slade as directors. Carried.

Mr. TIBBEY moved that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. E. Lowe be re-appointed auditors.

Mr. NEMAZEE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend and bonus warrants will be sent out on Monday.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO.

The fourteenth annual meeting of shareholders in the China Traders' Insurance Company, Ltd., was held on Saturday at the offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings. Mr. H. W. Slade presided, and there were also present—Messrs. E. Goetz, A. Haupt, C. R. Lenzmann, E. Ormiston (directors), A. Ough, W. J. Saunders, C. M. G. Burnie, D. B. Murray, H. C. Gray, A. E. Alves, H. J. Carvalho, J. A. Carvalho, V. L. dos Remedios, B. da Cunha, and J. Whittall (secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—Following our usual custom I propose, with your permission, to take as read the report and statement of accounts to-day presented for your adoption, and which have been in your hands for some little time past. You will have noticed that the accounts are rendered to the 31st December last, in accordance with the special resolutions passed and confirmed at the recently held extraordinary general meetings of the Company. The working account is for the eight months only, from May to December of last year, and, as stated in the report, out of the balance in hand your directors recommend the payment of an interim dividend of \$3 a share, and a bonus of 15 per cent. on bonus-bearing contributions received during that period, the balance to be carried forward to meet whatever further liabilities may be incurred, and any profit remaining to be dealt with at our next annual meeting. In the next statement of our 1905 account the amount paid as compensation to those of our late staff who have not been offered employment

with the Union Insurance Society of Canton will appear as a charge against this balance. As a record for our late shareholders who still retain an interest in the ultimate intrinsic value of our shares as at December 31st last, as well as for the information of the present holders of our stock, I may state that the Company's assets have been valued, and exchanges taken at the current rates, as at that date the differences in exchange being passed to exchange fluctuation account, and the differences on the re-valuation of assets being passed to investment fluctuation account, and that, with the exception of only one or two minor valuations which were not available when the books were closed and which have still to be added, the statement as presented is complete at date. If any further information is desired I shall be glad to give it before formally moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. OUGH, the report and accounts were adopted.

Mr. SAUNDERS moved, and Mr. BURNIE seconded, the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Ormiston to the board of directors.

On the motion of Mr. OUGH, seconded by Mr. MURRAY, Messrs. E. Goetz and A. J. Raymond were re-elected directors.

Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. BURNIE, seconded by Mr. CABRALHO.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

At the sixteenth ordinary general meeting of this Association, on April 18th, the Chairman said:—The balance of working account 1904 and former years is \$323,346.48 as against \$238,180.62 last year; and as stated in the report the directors recommend the following distribution, viz.:—

To pay a dividend of 20 per cent.—\$12	\$
per share	96,000.00
To addition to reserve fund	50,000.00
To addition to reinsurance fund	50,000.00
To be carried forward	127,346.48
	\$323,346.48

If you sanction this division the reserve fund will amount to \$800,000, equalling the subscribed capital of the Association and the Reinsurance Fund, which was only established a year ago when you voted \$50,000 for the purpose, and has since increased by a profit of \$11,278.45, a very useful auxiliary fund which, like our reserve fund, we hope to see steadily grow. So far your directors have not deemed it necessary, nor opportune, to ask you to increase the paid-up capital of the Association, but, with an expanding business, they keep the question in view, as I mentioned at several past meetings, in case an increase should become advisable.

The working account for 1905 shows a balance at credit of \$532,334.25, as against \$623,364.85, a falling-off of \$91,000, which is easily accounted for by the happily restored peace between Russia and Japan. It is still \$10,000 better than the balance two years ago and therefore very satisfactory. Out of the balance of this account, which includes \$99,249.33 interest earned, it is proposed to pay a special dividend of 5 per cent., or \$3 per share, which will absorb \$24,000. Taking the working for the two periods together and comparing the balances with those shown in last year's accounts, we find a total of \$866,958.18 against \$861,555.57.

Pending Claims.—The full estimates of pending claims for 1904 and former years, are about \$50,000 more than last year, but as the balance carried forward is about \$35,000 more than last year it should be ample to meet all claims.

Pending Claims for 1905 are about \$40,000 more than last year, but full estimates for all known claims and no allowances for possible salvages have been made, so it is hoped that a good balance will remain after the 1905 account has run off.

At last year's meeting I alluded to the case of the a.s. *Nigretia*, which had been seized and confiscated by the Japanese. It seems they did so on account of having found Russian officers on board. As this constituted a risk we had not covered we refused

payment of the claim sought to be enforced against us by the Russo-Chinese Bank, and obtained the decision of the Supreme Court here in our favour with costs. The plaintiffs have, however, appealed to the Privy Council at home, and it will probably take some months before we know the final result. In the meantime, of course, we include the case amongst the pending claims for 1904 and former years.

Unexpired risks are about 10 per cent. heavier than they were last year. Turning to the balance sheet, the exchange and investment fluctuation account stands at \$15,527.93 at credit of bank against \$5,290.48, or \$9,637.45 more than in last year's account, owing to some recovery in the value of certain of our investments.

Under the assets appears for the first time: Property account, land and buildings No. 26, The Bund, \$165,327.28. The opportunity occurred about a year ago, and your directors deemed it desirable to avail themselves thereof, to acquire the premises we have rented for the last eleven years with the land they stand on. Alterations for enlarging the office accommodation were commenced soon after we obtained possession and will, we trust, soon be completed. As the rest of the building is old, though in very fair order, we intend writing down the value of same from the present year. Your directors are glad to have secured so desirable a site for the offices of the Association and hope their purchase will meet with your approval, and they have much pleasure in welcoming you to the first annual general meeting to be held under your own roof.

The percentage of claims to premia is 37.25 per cent. against 38.72 per cent., while that of expenses to premia is 16.27 per cent. against 13.52 per cent. last year. Premia in course of collection on 30th December, 1905, was \$281,726.08, of which \$219,000 has since been received.

Sterling exchange has been taken for purposes of valuation on the 30th December, 1905, at 2/10 7.16 against 2/9 1.8, and Mexican dollars at the unaltered rate of Tls. 73 per \$100.

Mortgages on Real Estate.—Your Directors are satisfied that these represent ample security for the sums advanced.

With regard to the prospects for 1906, it is too early to form an opinion, but although business is rather dull I am glad that so far we have reason to be satisfied.

PHILIPPINE COMPANY, LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Philippine Company, Limited, was held on the 25th April at the offices of the National Bank of China, Queen's Road. Mr. J. F. Wright presided, and there were present—Messrs. P. Louriero, Yeung Pak-leung, G. C. Moxon, and J. E. Joseph.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MOXON, the following resolution, was carried unanimously at a previous meeting, was confirmed as a special resolution:—That the firm of Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. be appointed General Managers of the Company in the place of Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts, and that Article 56 of the Company's Articles of Association be altered by substituting the words "E. S. Kadoorie and Co." for the words "Benjamin, Kelly and Potts."

This was all the business.

THE SHANGHAI MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO., LIMITED.

The report of the Directors for the year ending 31st March, 1906, for presentation to the shareholders at the seventh annual ordinary meeting yesterday, said:—

"The Directors have to report satisfactory progress in the shape of new telephones connected with the Exchange, and in the conduct of the service generally."

The amount available for appropriation is Tls. 71,990.66, which the Directors suggest should be distributed in the following manner:

Tls.	1,500.00
Directors' and auditor's fees ...	1,500.00
Secretary and general manager, 2,285	
Telephones at Tls. 2 ...	4,570.00
Pay four taels per share to shareholders, equal to 8 per cent. ...	53,568.00

Raise the reserve fund to Tls. 100,000 by placing to it ...	10,000.00
Carry forward to new account ...	2,352.66

Total ...	Tls. 71,990.66
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Directors:—Mr. F. Anderson has gone home, and to fill the vacancy Mr. Cecil Holliday has rejoined the Board. Mr. A. W. Burkhill has rejoined, Mr. James Johnston, who occupied his seat during his absence, having resigned. As provided by the Articles of Association, Messrs. Macleod and Brunat retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor:—The accounts have been audited by Mr. J. D. Thorburn, who offers himself for re-election.

N. MACLEOD,
Chairman.

Shanghai, 10th April, 1906.

INTERESTING TO VOLUNTEERS.

EXTRAORDINARY PROSECUTION.

A case of interest to Volunteers came before the Penang Court of Requests on April 17th when Lieutenant Alan Wilson, Adjutant, Penang Volunteer Corps, sued Mr. Owen Harold Wait, described as a private of the Corps, for the recovery of the sum of \$25, which it was alleged he was liable to pay under Regulation 18 made under Sections 9 and 12 of the Volunteer Ordinance No. VII. of 1888. It appeared that Wait joined in July, 1902. He was inefficient in 1905, and in May of that year he tendered his resignation, which was refused, objection being taken because he agreed to put in "not less than two years" under the regulations. The two years expired in July, 1904. Wait had appealed to the Governor, who upheld the Commandant's decision. The cause of the refusal to accept the resignation was that defendant gave no sufficient reason; and the Adjutant's argument was that "not less than two years" meant "more than two years" unless the man could give a satisfactory reason for resigning. In the course of his evidence in reply to his Honour, the Adjutant made the rather extraordinary statement that as long as he remains in Penang until he attains his 55th year and is in good health, he must remain in the Corps. Wait said, in his evidence, that when he became a member, he was distinctly given to understand that he was only bound to serve for two years, and could serve longer if he should want to do so. He had not attended the drills because of sore feet. His Honour reserved judgment.

"DESIGNING CORPSE FACTORIES."

Although there are natural climatic differences between Hongkong and Singapore owing to difference of latitude, the former having a much wider range of temperature than the latter, the great common sanitary disability from which both towns suffer arises from identical causes. The first of these, says the *Singapore Free Press*, consists in all the evil conditions that are connected in the expressive phrase "back to back building", including permanent exclusion of light and air, and permanent retention of a stagnant and foul atmosphere, and its saturation with noisome organic emanations and products that must practically decompose *in situ*. Another of these consists in the overcrowding that with such a race as the lowest class of Chinese is the inevitable concomitant of the structural evils alluded to. These two causes aggravate each other by an eternal evil action and interaction, with the result that, even in spite of the notorious Chinese constitutional tolerance of conditions destructive to health and life, our urban death-rate, chiefly amongst men of an age that is best able to resist causes producing mortality, runs up to a figure that is, comparatively, abnormally high. And it is only that Chinese imperviousness to insanitary influences that helps to keep down the death-rate to even that high figure. We quite admit that the Governments of former days who sanctioned the fatal pattern of land sale allotments—scanty frontage, inordinate mole depth, side by side and back to back were not aware that they were designing corpse factories. But they were, and short of inoculating the population with disease virus, they really could not have done more to secure that result.

JAPAN AFTER THE WAR.

CHANGED ATTITUDE OF MANUFACTURERS.
According to the story of a Japanese who recently returned from a tour of commercial and industrial inspection abroad, a remarkable change of attitude is noticeable in the recognition of Japanese by manufacturers in Europe and America. Formerly every convenience and freedom was almost invariably accorded by these factories to all Japanese who wished to inspect them. After the war, however, while every attention and courtesy is given in other quarters, manufacturers show reluctance to throw open their factories to Japanese visitors. The freedom given to Japanese before the war, says the *Tokyo Mainichi*, was evidence of the low estimation in which Japanese capabilities were held by foreigners, and what the people have demonstrated in the war has apparently bred a feeling of apprehension in other countries as to the possible competition of Japanese in the field of manufacture, based on the changed attitude.

The recognition by foreigners of the real merits of Japanese is more to be welcomed than the poor estimate in which they have hitherto been held, continues the *Tokyo journal*. But as an undue feeling of apprehension or suspicion towards the Japanese is likely to be imminent to friendly international relations, any error tending to this must be removed. The boycott of American goods by Chinese, in retaliation for the unfair treatment to which the latter are subjected in America, has surprised Americans. The Chinese are quite within their rights in demanding of America the adoption of the same principles which the latter wishes to be applied in respect to China. It is satisfactory to observe that this view is being shared by the more intelligent section of the American public. But the impression which appears to prevail among some Americans that Japanese are behind the Chinese boycott movement is as misleading as it would be mischievous in its effect. That the Chinese, as the result of the Japanese victory over the Russians, have become changed in their attitude towards foreigners may be true, but this should rather be regarded as a reaction of the oppression which the latter have long exercised over the Chinese. If America had treated Chinese fairly and reasonably the boycott movement would never have begun. It is manifestly wrong therefore to charge the Japanese with instigating Chinese in their attitude against Americans. Even if American articles are excluded from the Chinese market Japanese manufacture have not reached a stage as to supply the market, and if there is any country to be dreaded in this direction it would be Germany, though it can hardly be imagined for a moment that she has instigated the Chinese in their boycott agitation.

THE LATE MR. LITTLE.

The late Mr. Robert Willism Little, editor of the *North-China Daily News*, whose death we reported on Saturday, was the dozen of journalism in Shanghai. He was born in London on August 2nd, 1839. Educated at St. Paul's School, London, and Oriel College, Oxford, (where he took his B. A. degree), he subsequently studied for the bar. In 1862 he came to China and engaged in mercantile pursuits, connected chiefly with tea and shipping. In 1866, he joined the *North-China Daily News* and succeeded the late Mr. J. W. MacLellan as editor. A man of great versatility and force of character, he did not confine his attention to newspaper work, but devoted a great deal of his time and energy to public affairs. He was chairman of Shanghai Municipal Council for three years, from 1879 to 1881, and was Chairman of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association last year. He was an enthusiastic volunteer fireman, and an officer in the local volunteer corps, taking keen interest in both bodies, and encouraging all his young friends to take up public duties. He was twice married. As a writer he was distinguished by a forceful and lucid style; and in addition was something of a poet. A very popular man in Shanghai, his death will be much regretted.

REVIEWS.

Mast and Sail in Europe and Asia, by H. WASHINGTON SMITH. London: John Murray. 21s.

This copiously illustrated and altogether handsome volume of over four hundred pages is an outcome of some years of very varied sea travel. The author is an M.A., LL.M., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., and a prominent member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club. He has carefully observed the peculiarities of the principle types of sailing-craft in almost all parts of Europe and Asia, in many cases handling and sailing them personally. He has chosen the best plan of classification, geographic, and in a few cases where he needed other eyes to complete his own researches, the author has secured the services of thoroughly competent friends. "Asia," he remarks, "may well claim precedence for the great antiquity of its types of sea-craft, which in most cases can claim a more remote origin than the oldest of those surviving in the Mediterranean or Norse seas". As being of most interest to our readers, we will take note only of these portions, therefore, of a book which nevertheless deals exhaustively and in a vividly interesting fashion with craft ranging from the Arab *baggara* to the Scottish *zulu*, from the Egyptian *dahabia* to the Barbary *zabe*. His Indian, Malayan, and Siamese experiences have caused the author to consider craft from those localities at greater length than those peculiar to our own corner of the Far East. China gets only the last chapter, which moreover includes a section about Japanese sailing-craft. The author remarks that "the striking originality which pervades their (Chinese) architecture, their painting, and their life on shore, is even more characteristically displayed by them afloat." He refuses to countenance the common assumed contempt for the junk, than which there is no class of vessel "more suited or better adapted to its purpose"; while "it is certain that for flatness of sail and for handiness the Chinese rig is unsurpassed." He quotes Capt. FitzGerald, R.N., as a most capable authority who said that the smaller junks are "the handiest vessels in the world." The Chinese were undeniably far ahead of all other nations in their comprehension of the principles of scientific fore-and-aft sailing. "When our forefathers paddled alongshore in open boats, the Chinaman sailed to East Africa in five-masters". And the "over-hang", developed so conspicuously by nineteenth-century yacht-men, has been a well-understood principle in China for a thousand years. "In windlasses and labour-saving appliances the Chinese appear to have been always far ahead of the standard reached by European nations until the last century." They have scarcely altered a single detail for centuries. The author calls the Chinese, in things nautical, "the Dutchmen of the East", and points out many points of resemblance, to establish the parallel. The Chinese junk is as perfect in its own way as it can well be. Its peculiar superstructures add comfort, without interfering with its sailing qualities. Its under-water lines, especially in the south, are generally very 'sweet', and corvette-like. More keel might be an advantage, but the deep rudder and extended forecastle largely take its place in holding the vessel up to windward. "A few hours spent watching the daily crowd of junks beating through the Lyeemun Pass out of Hongkong harbour during the north-east monsoon, will (he says) persuade the greatest unbeliever that for speed and set of her sails the junk is not easily beaten; and a finer sea picture not the Thames in Sea Reach can show". The rig and management of the sails is elaborately explained in detail, with carefully drawn pictures of the various types. In the case of the Japanese craft, the author is not at all enthusiastic. They surprised him. "The national, high-peaked junk of Japan, the largest sea-going vessel developed in the islands, was always of clumsy construction, and had neither the quality of speed nor that of ability to work to windward." It has been suggested that the deliberate policy of seclusion had much to do with the small advance made by Japanese ship-builders, but the author does not accept that theory for a reason. He omits to point out that

the same argument would also apply to Chinese ship-builders. Japanese junks were excessively strong and cumbersome, and slow sailers. The modern Japanese, whose sailing tonnage is keeping pace with the increase of steam, are wiser. They are fully realising now the value of the fore-and-aft sail, especially in their new type of schooners. They are, the author admits, excellent sailors, if as builders they have only recently improved.

Kakemono: Japanese Sketches, by A. HERBAGE EDWARDS. London: William Heinemann.

This book of exclamatory paragraphs, dedicated "to my teachers, the people of Japan", is characterised more by fine writing than originality of thought and observation. The author seems to belong to that quaint school whose modern apostle seems to be Mr. "Bart" Kennedy. His style may be fairly parodied in the following "kakemono", largely compiled from actual quotations from the book:

Sunny Japan sits peaceful and still. It has rained all night and all day; big, solid drops that fall as compactly through the air as battalions of small shot, but at twilight the raindrops dwindle, slackened, dwindle, ceased. The rain has stopped.

The stones on the pathway were all wet and shining. The rain had done that.

Ah! The rain. It had done more than that. Listen.

The gallant *kurumaya*, gallant descendant he of no less gallant *samurai*, stops. Stands still.

Perhaps it is the wonderful Japanese sympathy. Remember. The rain had also stopped.

Kurumaya-san (Oh! That Japanese politeness!) produces a dainty cigarette—a cigarette made of mermaid's hair.

Kaji. That is what he needs, yearns for, needs, requires.

He produces a box, a little box. It is a match-box, a frail, tiny affair. Japanese houses, those dear houses, are like that, frail, tiny, frail. One takes off one's boots before going in.

The *kurumaya* is sad, sorrowful. Japanese matches strike only on the box; and the rain (see page 159) has made the box damp. 'amp!

Mr. Herbage Edwards's book is in that tone, but there is nothing funny in it. He is in deadly earnest all through. He raves about the wonderful expression of Dai-Butsu, to begin with, and deliberately states that "the heavy-lidded eyes droop lower, and the slow smile is still", in response to the enquiry, "What is thy secret, Great Lord Buddha?" This is extraordinary, in the case of a bronze image, whose expression we have examined and identified as a faintly cynical one. But it is no more extraordinary than his further statement that "the murmuring water runs more swiftly." Apart altogether from the fact that, to the best of our recollection, all the water in the vicinity is in stagnant ponds, we do not believe that running water ever accelerates its pace because a phrase-monger needs the emphasis thus obtained. We have no doubt that we are not being quite fair; that many readers will wade through this addition to the already copious bibliographica Japonica with keen delight; but we are sure that they will also acquire many wrong impressions; and personally, we find the style irritating. The author, who admits that he allowed his rickshaw-puller to stop and gesticulate at every "sacred" camphor-tree (ours never tried that on), remarks on page 141 that "many writers have exclaimed in paragraphs sprinkled with interjections." We can think of no comment more just than the quoque.

Judas, by SIDNEY MOUTRIE. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The author, Mr. Sidney Moutrie, of Shanghai, is not unknown in the literary world. Several of his works have already attracted favourable notice, and the present, which is dedicated "to Herbert Beerbohm Tree in grateful acknowledgement of his interest and encouragement," bids fair to rival some of his previous efforts. Mr. Moutrie has, in his own words, fulfilled in some degree Aristotle's definition of tragedy. Certainly he raises pity and stirs the soul to a kind of intellectual delight. No one can feel aught but pity for the miserable Judas who betrayed his master for a comparatively trifling sum of money. When his mother, affectionate, but

proud-of-race, learns that he has committed this black dishonour, she bids him:

"If still wouldst be my son,

Die that I may love thee dead.

I shall not blush in weeping for thee then,

See there, that robe take it. I give it thee.

Now dost thou understand?"

The wretched man to whom the sight of the pieces of silver is a reproach, presents them to a blind beggar, who returns them because he is not assured they have been honestly gained. Judas at last throws them out of the window and afterwards hangs himself. His mother relents and enters the chamber to save her son, but she arrives too late. The pathos is deepened by the love element. The foster daughter of Judith is in love with Judas, and the dialogue between the two women when the older relates her dream of the treacherous act of Judas is particularly fine. Undoubtedly "Judas" possesses both literary and dramatic merit.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Another plague case at Bacoonsfield Arcade, this time fatal, has called forth additional Sanitary Board measures.

The fire extinguishing apparatus at Hankow has lately proved inadequate; and the suggestion is made that the various foreign settlements should co-operate and subscribe for an up-to-date motor-engine.

Lane, Crawford, & Co., Ltd., Shanghai, are paying a final dividend for 1905 of seven per cent., making with interim twelve per cent., for the year, as well as a bonus of two dollars per share. The net profit was nearly \$55,000.

Holders of paddy along the railway line in Burma expect prices to rule very high this year in consequence of the famine in Japan. Prices usually advance with the season, but are unprecedentedly high now, for so early, in the year.

A European resident of the upper levels of West Point on April 25th reported to the police that a dead body had been placed on his stairway. Sergeant Gordon was despatched, with an ambulance to remove it, but was greatly surprised on arrival at the house to observe the "dead" man get up and walk away.

On the 26th April Chief Excise Officer Hoggart seized five more cases of morphine at Godown No. 31, Kowloon. This shipment arrived by the P. and O. steamer *Desanka* on the 5th April, and the usual applications for the confiscation of the goods to the Opium Farmer will be posted in due course.

The "universal boy" is no empty phrase. Even China can claim him. Ng Cheung Hau, in an essay published in the *Yellow Dragon*, the Queen's College magazine, says he doesn't make much of book-keeping, which teaches chaps how to make accounts and books in a shop. I am simply sick of those heaps of accounts Goods, Cash, Personal, Subsidiary, Capital and others. The same boy, remarks that gymnastics is a more useful subject than drawing, or trigonometry.

A marked improvement has been made of late in the methods of silk-weaving in Japan, especially with reference to silks intended for export to America and India, but quality is still much inferior to the silks produced in America and Europe for the reason that few Japanese weavers are using modern looms. To encourage the improvement of the quality of silk for the export market, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to purchase weaving-machinery and looms from Europe, and loan them to silk-weavers in Kiryu, Ashikaga, Yonezawa, and other silk-weaving centres. Orders have already been dispatched for the machinery.

A rather startling crash awakened residents of Queen's Road, West, early on April 28th, when the first and second floor verandahs of house No. 341 came clean away from the house. As it happened no one was in the way of the material when it fell, but as portion of a rickshaw was observed among the debris it was thought that a coolie might have met his death by the fall. Consequently, a gang of men were sent on to turn over the stuff, but their search fortunately proved fruitless. The police notified the P.W.D. of the accident and put men on duty to keep the crowd clear of the premises. The building is the property of Wong Yee-tong, a *coquero* (i.e. *cocheo*) and O. Co.

COMMERCIAL.

THE YOKOHAMA SILK REPORT.

Business has continued on a fair scale; but as the natives incessantly drove prices up, buyers finally withdrew from the market, and during the last few days hardly anything has been done. Spring Reels are now beginning to arrive in larger quantities, this quality being about normal. A few small lots of Re-reels are expected to be offered for sale within the week.

Waste Silk.—Market unchanged. The small business passing is chiefly in Kibizzo Filature. Settlements from 28th March to 17th April:—2,508 piculs. Total Settlements from 1st July to 17th April:—55,800 piculs. Stock on the 17th April is estimated at 3,800 piculs, viz:—Kibizzo, 1,800 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, 1,000 piculs; Sundries, 700 piculs.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

The "Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report," published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, dated, Yokohama, April 18th, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—Market dull, prices lowered by yen 10 all round. **Shirtings.**—No business, but prices maintained. **Fancy Cottons and Woollens.**—No change to report. **Metals.**—No sales reported—condition unchanged. **Kerosene.**—Market steady, native oil firmer. **Sugar.**—The Market has remained quiet and no business has been put through in any direction beyond the sale of 4,900 bags at the auction of the Tokyo Refinery on the 16th April; prices remaining identical with those obtained at the last auction. **Indigo (Natural).**—Forward contracts are now coming along, but there is little new business.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—A few samples have been shown and give promise of good quality in the crop, should the present warm weather continue. Total settlements from May 1st to April 14th amount to 109,694 piculs, against 178,800 picul at the corresponding date last year.

Quotations:—Common, Good Common, Medium, Good Medium, Fine, Finest, Choice and Choicest, nominal.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—The summer catch having commenced, the position of the Market is rather unsettled and no transactions are reported. **Copper.**—A few hundred tons are reported closed at yen 45.00 to 45.50 per 100 kin. Later on the market has declined in sympathy with weaker reports from home.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 18th April, 1906.—We beg to continue our advices of the 5th April, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Stocks as per circular of				
5th April, 1906	1,720	2,886	1,201	1,913
Apr. 6th Imports per Devarna ..	93			
" 9th " " C. Apcar ..	160	130		
	1,813	2,546	1,391	1,913
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	90	494	286	
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including	92	600	276	
Local Consumption for the fortnight ..				
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,631	1,452	879	1,913

Bengal.—The market has been fairly active owing to stocks in Chinese hands being light, and prices advanced to \$895 for Patna and \$822 for Benares, closing quiet.

Malwa.—The market is dull and weak. The following prices are nominal.

New	\$ 950
2 years old	970
3	1,000
4/5	1,100
Oldest	1,150

Persian.—Market is very quiet.

HONGKONG, 28th April.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$ 950	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$ 1000	to —	do.
Malwa Older	\$ 1050	to —	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$ 1100	to —	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$ 950	to —	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$ 1000	to —	do.
Patna New	\$ 880	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	\$ 855	to —	do.
Benares New	\$ 810	to —	do.
Benares Old	—	to —	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 12th April, 1906, states:—The task of writing a report on this market is getting harder and harder, as sales from first hands have become very scarce, and operators are not sufficiently proud of, or confident over, their forward transactions to care about talking of them. They feel that they are treading on dangerous ground, and cannot very satisfactorily convince themselves, let alone anyone else, that their actions are really just being pushed along by the force circumstances. And the contagion is spreading, for although individually no such large quantities as were reported to have gone through last week have been repeated, more firms have felt the necessity of buying to secure the cloth for their regular chocks. It was the native dealers who initiated the buying last year, but it is the import houses that have forced them to do so this year, when the position is very much worse in every respect.

Then the price of cotton was fully 45 per cent. lower, the end of the war was in sight when a booming trade was expected to follow, and the stocks of most commodities were less than half what they are now; whereas the demand since the war ceased has been most disappointing, and has in no way come up to expectations, and the monetary state of the country is in a most unsatisfactory and disorganized state, likely to become worse before it improves, and yet people have the temerity to buy for far ahead delivery for such a fickle market as this is. True, exchange is over 10 per cent. more favorable at the moment, but who can tell what it will be twelve months hence! The news received from Newchwang is not at all satisfactory concerning that market, but it is most difficult to get at the bottom of it all. The transport facilities are certainly very inadequate still, and the country is infested with robbers on all the routes to the North. Heavy stocks of goods are lying at the stations a little way out from Newchwang, the only articles of which there is a scarcity, apparently, being fancy goods, and they are receiving the chief attention of buyers here. The representations and protests that are being made by the Governments of some of the more interested countries in the trade of Manchuria, are having a salutary effect on the Japanese Government, and it is anticipated that before long freer access will be permitted to Foreign traders and their wares; but the time has not come yet. The Tientsin and Shantung markets are the only ones with any life in them at present, but the demand from thence is altogether inadequate to make any impression on the enormous accumulation of stocks here. Holders are becoming despondent and are accepting prices for goods that cannot be replaced within at least ten per cent. No relief comes from the River markets, which are feeling very severely the effects of the iniquitous circulation of a discredited copper coin as currency. With the free booking of orders, both for India and this market, Manchester is in a very strong position and manufacturers are once more able to dictate their own terms. There is, apparently, a keen competition for the balance of the cotton crop available, and prices continue their upward movement, Mid-American having advanced to 6.17d. For Egyptian, however, prices are going up by leaps and bounds, 10d. being the latest quotation from Liverpool. The American market is still very strong, but it was found there were no takers here at the exorbitant prices quoted last week.

A counter offer in the neighbourhood of 13s. Od. for Buck's Head 2.85 yard Sheetings has, it is reported, been accepted for 2,000 bales, December or January shipment. It is difficult to conceive on what buyers are basing calculations in these long distant purchases at such extravagant prices and in face of enormous supplies that have to be got rid of. The market for imported yarns is neither active nor strong, but for local spinnings there has been a good demand, and contracts to the extent of nearly 20,000 bales have been signed for, delivery extending up to August. Cotton is firmer owing to the buying to cover the above-mentioned yarns contracted for.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer Arcadia, sailed on 21st April. For Rotterdam:—5 cases cigars. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—5 cases feathers, 4 cases private effects, 100 packages tea, 128 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—142 bales raw silk. For London:—10 cases silks, 1 case silver cups, 231 bales waste silk, 2 cases feathers, 120 rolls matting, 2 cases cigars, 6 packages private effects and curios. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk.

Per steamer Diomed, sailed on 11th April: For Constantinople:—26 cases galangal, etc. For Beyrouth:—20 rolls matting. For Havre or London or Hamburg:—64 boxes camphor. For Amsterdam:—50 cases ginger. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam or London:—100 bales galangal. For Rotterdam:—100 rolls matting. For London:—100 bales waste silk, 230 cases chinaware, etc., 60 bales bristles, 48 cases blackwoodware, etc., 671 bales canes, etc., 382 cases sundries, 100 cases m. oil p. shell. For London or Glasgow:—6 cases vermilion, etc. For Glasgow:—15 boxes sundries. For Dundee:—29 bales tea mats. For Liverpool:—8 cases chinaware. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Glasgow or Dundee or Leith:—175 packages merchandise. For London or Continent:—260 bales bristles, 119 bales feathers, 337 bales canes, 144 bales mats. For Antwerp:—330 bales bamboo scraps matting, 335 bales feathers, 87 cases bristles.

Per steamer Prins Eitel Friedrich, sailed on 26th April. For Colombo:—6 cases glassware. For Aden:—60 cases preserves. For Smyrna:—10 cases essential oil. For Alexandrette:—5 cases glass bangles. For Naples:—40 cases Staraniseed, 6 cases essential oil. For Genoa:—189 bales raw silk, 34 rolls matting, 20 cases essential oil, 3 cases hemp, 1 bale hemp, 1 case chinaware. For Venice:—250 cases cassia. For Antwerp:—270 bales bamboo, 56 bales leaf tobacco, 1 case musical instruments. For Amsterdam:—47 rolls matting. For Rotterdam:—100 bales bamboo scraps. For Bremerhaven:—20 cases essential oil. For Bremen:—542 rolls matting, 3 cases curios. For Hamburg:—283 bales feathers, 80 rolls matting, 57 cases blackwoodware, 27 cases chinaware, 24 cases bristles, 23 cases human hair, 20 cases vermilion, 7 cases feathers, 5 cases china paper, 5 cases essential oil, 1 case grass cloth. For Copenhagen:—35 rolls matting.

Per P. & O. steamer Socotra, sailed on 28th April. For Antwerp:—55 rolls mats. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Havre:—108 cases camphor (opt.), 587 piculs tin (opt.). For Marseilles:—4 bales human hair. For London:—1 case lacquerware, 4 cases camphor, 8 packages private effects, 213 bales canes, 140 packages m. dice 3 cases rattan ware.

HANKOW, 18th April, 1906:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 87.50
Do. Seconds	83.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	18.25
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color ..	70.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each ..	9.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or	
Poochi	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	11.25
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.50
Jute	8.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.75
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	18.50
Do. Plum do	18.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	8.00
Do. Wongkong	11.00
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	(nom.)
Wild Duck	(nom.)
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Seasamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.50
Tea Oil	10.00

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 30th April, 1906.	
Apricot	\$26 to \$30
Borax	\$14 " \$17
Cassia	\$14 " \$19
Cloves	\$20 " \$25
Camphor	\$185 " \$200
Cow Besoar	\$470 " \$500
Fennel Seed	\$6 " \$8
Galangal	\$3 " \$5
Grapes	\$18 " \$20
Kismis	\$18 " \$20
Glue	\$25 " \$30
Olibanum	\$2 " \$3
Oil Sandalwood	\$225 " \$250
" Rosa	\$150 " \$175
" Cassia	\$150 " \$175
Raisins	\$8 " \$10
Senna Leaves	\$2 " \$5
Sandalwood	\$25 " \$30
Saltpetre	\$11.00 "

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th April, 1906.—There has been a little more life in the market since our last report, and a fair business has been put through in some stocks, notably in Humphreys, Docks, and Watsons, while several stocks have been enquired for without leading to any but a very small business. Rates have ruled somewhat erratic, but the balance has tended towards firmness and we have several improvements to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been placed in small lots at \$865 and close steady at that. Nationals. A small sale is reported at \$38, and the market closes with further buyers at the rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue steady with small sales at \$79 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$795 cum dividend of \$30 payable on the 30th inst., the market closing steady at the latter rate. China Traders have not been dealt in, and in their present transitory state it is difficult to give any but a nominal quotation. Cantons are in a small demand at \$35, but we have heard of no sales, and no shares are procurable except at an advance. In North Chinas and Yangtze we have nothing to report locally.

* FIRE INSURANCES.—Although it is a far cry to San Francisco, and our local companies are happily not involved in the heavy losses sustained by the recent regrettable disaster, our market was temporarily affected and Hongkongs fell to \$305 with sales, while Chinas changed hands at \$86. At time of closing the market is a little steadier, and sellers fewer.

SHIPPING.—Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are reported in fair lots at \$25, but they are somewhat difficult to trace or confirm, and at time of closing shares are pretty freely offering at that rate, or even at \$24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Indo-Chinas have ruled very quiet at \$93 and the market closes dead at quotation. China-Manilas have changed hands at the improved rate of \$19, and close steady at that. Douglasses are somewhat quieter, without sales, and with a few shares obtainable at \$41. Star Ferries are still enquired for at \$32 for old and \$22 for new shares. Shells have failed to maintain their position, and after small sales at \$28 close weak at \$27.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue weak with sellers at \$175; buyers, however, at lower rates, fail to obtain shares. Luzons remain unchanged, weak, and without business.

MINING.—We have no changes or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined, chiefly on account of the approaching settlements, and sales have been effected during the week at \$163, \$161 and \$160 the market closing rather steadier at \$161 with buyers, and no sellers at an advance. Kowloon Wharves. Sales are reported at \$105, but shares have been on offer during the week at slightly lower rates, and at time of closing are procurable at \$144. Farnhams have ruled rather easier and are quoted Tls. 119 in Shanghai. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have improved to Tls. 225 in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, with a small demand have improved to \$118, after small sales at \$117, the market closing firm at the former rate. Humphreys have been dealt in to a somewhat large extent at \$11 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$11 $\frac{1}{4}$, closing with further buyers at the higher rate. Hotels have ruled quieter and close with sellers at \$13 $\frac{1}{2}$. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no changes or business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents, Dairies, Green Islands, China Light and Powers, Watkins, and Powells have all changed hands at quotations. Electric have improved to \$17 with small sales, and Ices have been enquired for at \$235 without bringing any shares on the market. The Hongkong Rope Co.'s shares have been split up to 50,000 instead of 10,000 shares, i.e. 5 shares for every 1 of the old scrip. There have been sales of the new scrip at \$29 the equivalent of \$145 old. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$865, sales & sel.
National B. of China		London, 290
A. Shares	25	\$88, sales & buy.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$71
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$6, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 75
Hongkong	\$10	\$16, sales & sel.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 73
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 119.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$104, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$161, buyers
New Amoy Dock...	\$61	\$17, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 225.
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$214, buyers
G. Island Cement ...	\$10	\$294
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$17
Do. New	\$10	\$164
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$285, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$132, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$285, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$50	29, sales & sel.
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$10, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$355, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$305
North China.....	25	Tls. 90
Union	\$100	\$795
Yangtze	\$80	\$175, x. d.
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$118, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$114, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$80	\$39
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$58, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$490
Raubs.....	18/10	\$3
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$64
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$175, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$25
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$19, sales
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41,
H. Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$25, sales & sel.
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$93,
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	27 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co. ...	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$84, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$104
Watkins.....	\$10	\$5, sales & sel.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$134, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNNO & SMYTH, Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 19th April, 1906, states.—There has been a good business done during the week under review, business in the principal stocks being chiefly confined to cash or near transactions. The feature of the market has been the rapid rise in all Cotton Stocks, as high as Tls. 77 for September being offered for Ewos, and there are buyers at Tls. 72 for cash. There were only two days of business this week owing to the Easter holidays. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. A few shares have changed hands at \$800, the latest London quotation is £90. 5s. Od. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North Chinas have been dealt in at Tls. 90. Shipping.—No transactions reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been dealt in at Tls. 224 cash, Tls. 225 July, Yangtze Wharves at Tls. 220 April, S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Shares have changed at Tls. 180, Tls. 190 and 120 cash, closing with buyers at the latter quotation, and Tls. 123 $\frac{1}{2}$ July. Sugars.—The rise in Peraks to Tls. 85 has not been maintained, but there are still buyers of shares at Tls. 80 with no shares offering. Mining.—Kaiping have changed hands at Tls. 104. Weihaiwei Golds are offering at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$. Lands.—No business. Industrial.—Ewos have been bought at Tls. 65 and 67 cash and there are now buyers at Tls. 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash. We believe shares have been dealt in at Tls. 77 for September. There have been small dealings in Laou Kung Mows at 67. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. There have been sales of this stock at Tls. 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash, Tls. 236/237 April, Tls. 241 $\frac{1}{2}$ /242 June, Tls. 242 $\frac{1}{2}$ /243 $\frac{1}{2}$ July, closing with buyers at Tls. 235 cash. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have changed hands at Tls. 67. Stores and Hotels.—Some New Central shares have been placed at \$15 $\frac{1}{2}$. Hall and Holtz shares are wanted at \$25. There has been one operation in Llewellyn shares at \$25. Loans and Debentures.—Waterworks 6 per cent. Debentures have changed hands at Tls. 86.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 30th April.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	242 $\frac{1}{2}$
• Cr-dts 4 months' sight	264 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	214
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, 60 days' sight	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	155 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	155 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Private, 30 days' sight	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	102
ON MANIL.—	
On demand	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.o.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	125 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3 p.o.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.o.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
SOVEREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.55
GOLD LEAF; 100 fine, per tael	\$50.80
BAR SILVER, per oz.	30 $\frac{1}{2}$

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s latest Freight Market Report, states.—Since our last, the drop in exchange has begun to make itself felt, and our Homeward Freight Market shows some improvement. Coastwise.—This market is slightly weaker, and rates from Japan rule between \$1.80 and \$1.40. There is still a meagre enquiry from the River Ports, but rates remain so low in that direction that tonnage is not attracted.

SHIPPING:

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—
 ARRIVALS.
 19. Korea, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 20. Charterhouse, British str., for Singapore.
 21. Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
 22. Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 20. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20. Hongkong, French str., from Manila.
 20. Kweilin, British str., from Swatow.
 20. Pitmanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 20. Saint Bride, British str., from Cardiff.
 20. Shantang, British str., from Moji.
 20. Tean, British str., from Manila.
 20. Toly, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 20. Zweena, British str., from Samarang.
 21. Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 21. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 21. Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 21. Knivsberg, German str., from Chefoo.
 21. Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 21. Shawmut, American str., from Tacoma.
 21. Silvertown, Brit. cable str., from Shanghai.
 21. Stettin, British str., from Singapore.
 21. Tungsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 21. Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 22. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22. Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 22. Kweichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 22. Dacia, German str., from Tsingtau.
 23. Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 23. Chowfa, German str., from Kohsichang.
 23. Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23. Kintuck, British str., from Shanghai.
 23. Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 23. Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 23. Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.
 23. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 23. Sithonia, German str., from Hamburg.
 23. Vanadia, Norw. str., from Christmas Isld.
 23. Wilmington, U.S. gunboat, from Manila.
 24. Bombay Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 24. Bullmouth British str., from Palambang.
 24. Changchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24. Empire, British str., from Kobe.
 24. Jaguar, German gunboat, from Shanghai.
 24. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 24. Manica, British str., from London.
 24. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 24. Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.
 24. Sungkang, British str., from Iloilo.
 25. Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 25. Battenhall, British str., from Hongay.
 25. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 25. Foochow, British str., from Wubu.
 25. Helene, German str., from Tourane.
 25. Hongmoh, British str., from Straits.
 25. Hu, French str., from Haiphong.
 25. Mefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 25. Ningchow, British str., from Shanghai.
 25. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 25. Senegambia, German str., from Japan.
 25. Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 26. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 26. Kaffong, British str., from Iloilo.
 26. Kassala, British str., from Port Kembla.
 26. Monadnock, U.S. monitor, from Canton.
 26. Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
 26. Yunnan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 27. Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 27. Cairo, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 27. Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 27. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 27. Hongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 27. Taming, British str., from Manila.
 27. Thyra, Norw. str., from Kutchinotou.
 27. Tientain, British str., from Bombay.
 28. Akutsu Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 28. Andromeda, British str., from Woosung.
 28. Lydia, German str., from Kebao.
 28. Maidsuzu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 28. Quarta, German str., from Mororan.
 28. Tjipanas, Dutob str., from Swatow.
 28. Takosan Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
 29. Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.
 29. Dagny, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 29. Ernest Simona, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
 29. Hilary, German str., from Chinkiang.
 29. Jason, British str., from Liverpool.
 29. Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 29. Kweichow, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29. Palawan, British str., from London.

DEPARTURES.

20. Canada, German str., for Singapore.
 20. Chingtu, British str., for Australia.

20. Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.
 21. Kauchow, British str., for Tsingtao.
 20. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 20. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 20. Lydia, German str., for Tonkin.
 20. Ningpo, British str., for Chinkiang.
 20. Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 20. Wongkri, German str., for Bangkok.
 21. Arcadia, British str., for Europe.
 21. Arcadia, German str., for Shanghai.
 21. Chiuyen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21. Dos Hermanas, Amr. str., for Manila.
 21. Mercedes, British str., for Shanghai.
 21. Palermo, British str., for Yokohama.
 21. Standard, British str., for Bangkok.
 21. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 22. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 22. Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
 22. Dagny, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 22. Datjin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 22. Dardanus, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22. Gulf of Venice, Brit. str., for Vladivostock.
 22. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 22. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 22. Kohaichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 22. Merapi, British str., for Amoy.
 22. Obra, British str., for Yokohama.
 22. Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 22. Samson, German str., for Bangkok.
 22. Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Stettin, British str., for Tientsin.
 22. Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Dakota, American str., for Seattle.
 23. Kent, British cruiser, for practice.
 23. King Alfred, British cruiser, for practice.
 23. Machaon, British str., for London.
 23. Rambler, British surv. ship, for a cruise.
 23. Silvertown, British cable str., for Saigon.
 24. Dacia, German str., for Singapore.
 24. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 24. Kintuck, British str., for London.
 24. Kutaang, British str., for Calcutta.
 24. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 24. Kweilin, British str., for Chefoo.
 24. Merionethshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 24. Shah Allum, British str., for Calcutta.
 24. Tean, British str., for Manila.
 24. Vacadia, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 24. Victoria, Swedish str., for Chefoo.
 24. Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 25. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 25. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 25. Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Manica, British str., for Nagasaki.
 25. P. E. Friedrich, German str., for Europe.
 25. Quinta, German str., for Chinkiang.
 25. Socotra, British str., for London.
 25. Taiwan, British str., for Bangkok.
 25. Toly, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 25. Trieste, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 25. Zweena, British str., for Saigon.
 26. Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 26. Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 26. Daphne, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 26. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shan-tai.
 26. Senegambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 26. Sithonia, German str., for Shanghai.
 27. Amara, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. Germania, German str., for Sydney.
 27. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 27. Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F'cisco.
 27. Hougmoh, British str., for Amoy.
 27. Pitmanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 27. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 28. Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 28. Apenrde, German str., for Hoihow.
 28. Battenhall, British str., for Saigon.
 28. Dakota, American str., for Seattle.
 28. Empire, British str., for Manila.
 28. Feiching, Chinese steamer, for Shanghai.
 28. Germania, German str., for Sydney.
 28. Java, Austrian str., for Kuchinotou.
 28. Keongwai, German str., for Amoy.
 28. Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 28. Kweichow, British str., for Wei-hai-wei.
 28. Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 28. Pakhoi, British str., for Chinkiang.
 28. Shawmut, American str., for Tacoma.
 28. Signal, German str., for Deli.
 29. Alabama, British str., for Cruz Salina.
 29. Chipahing, British str., for Tientsin.
 29. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 29. Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 29. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 29. Lydia, German steamer, for Shanghai.
 29. Ningchow, British str., for Rangoon.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Korea, from San Francisco, &c., Comdr. J. N. Helm, U.S.N., Mrs. F. S. Kellogg, Mrs. S. V. Paree, Mrs. J. G. Cross, Messrs. J. N. Boyd, R. S. Wedding, Mrs. G. H. McCarty, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gay, Miss M. T. Matthews, Messrs. C. S. Derham, A. S. Lanier, J. J. McDonald, Miss D. McDonald, Miss M. E. McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin J. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Leland, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. King, Messrs. E. G. Garrera, F. S. G. Piggott, R. E. G. Kellogg-Claxton, Mrs. O. Hines, Miss Rachelle Osborne, Mrs. J. N. Boyd, Mr. B. Wragg, Miss Arlette Hughes, Mrs. M. E. Westfall, Messrs. G. B. Cooley, S. V. Dorr, J. R. Hornberger.

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Per Empire, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Lombard, Mr. A. O. Lang, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Pilkington, Mrs. Ingerson, Miss Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. Cauldry and child; Messrs. A. J. McConnel, Eastlick, J. J. Meiklejohn, C. B. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Peters.

DEPARTED.

Per Arcadia, from Yokohama, for London, Surgeon and Mrs. Moon, R.N., Mr. and Miss Simmons, Mr. H. A. Stake; from Shanghai for London, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gillies, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Hutchison, Mrs. Arthur, Mrs. Bower and family, Miss E. Reid, Miss D. Reid, Miss F. L. Morris, Messrs. E. Gosling, L. G. Jupp, M. Bull and Edward S. Chow; for Marsoilles, Miss A. E. Ehrstrom, Mr. D. Greenwood; for Bombay, Mr. J. M. Munro; from Hongkong for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ponsonby, Mr. and Mrs. J. Schulz, Mrs. H. C. D. Iton Frampton, Mrs. B. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Alexander, Mrs. S. D. Lott, Miss Elizabeth Schulz, Messrs. J. N. McDougall, Alfred Clarke, E. Cateaux, C. H. Cateaux, T. Pass, A. O. Wicks, E. R. Halifax, M. Friedman, E. E. Gridley, A. Wilson and J. Lindsay; for Marsoilles, Col. and Mrs. V. Chater, Mrs. Stevenson, Messrs. J. Barton, James Scott and S. J. Lyons; for Gibraltar, Master and Miss de Meneses, Mr. F. C. de Meneses; for Brindisi, Mrs. J. Davis; for Calcutta, Mrs. M. Wilson and two children; for Singapore, Messrs. Norman Smith, and J. M. Sinclair.

Per Hongkong Maru, for San Francisco, &c., Miss M. Roberts, Messrs. H. M. Wheeler, B. T. Turner, H. C. G. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gay, Messrs. G. B. Cooley, H. W. Howell, O. J. McCorkle, F. J. Lomax, Harold Riggs, B. W. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ferguson, Miss Ferguson, Mrs. M. E. Westfall, Messrs. Thomas H. Stryker, James Madison, Dr. and Mrs. Gomes, Chev. Z. Volpicelli, Mrs. Mary Moss, Messrs. F. R. Pemberton, J. C. Pemberton, T. A. Elwell, R. J. Hunt, W. J. A. David, General and Mrs. McArthur, Lieut. McArthur, Mr. R. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Boyd, Miss Jessie Lester, Messrs. J. Purgibet, T. Yasui, T. Immura, L. Hayter.

Per Rubi, for Manila, Miss Woerter, Dr. Doherty, Messrs. V. Uldall and Mayor.

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